

**REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 14, 2020**

The December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Howard Thrower, III. Present were Jerry Cox, Sr., James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney and Lannis Thornton. Councilmen Demario Byrden was absent from the meeting. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman and City Clerk Dana Barfield. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was given by Councilmen Douglas.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 23, 2020 - Regular Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members.

**DELEGATIONS:**

**Recognized City Employees for Years of Service and Retirements.** Mayor Thrower extended a big thank you to all City Employees for all of their hard work and dedication to our city. Employees were presented plaques for five years to 45 years of service and retirements.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Consider Special Event Permit –Community Outreach at Davis Park on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, James E. Miller Open Air Market/Pamela Howard – Applicant.** Motion to approve the Special Event Permit was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members present.

**Consider Special Event Permit –Voter Registration and Education, Free Luncheon, and Toy Drive at Azalea Park on Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Organizing for Grady County/Erica Hunter – Applicant.** Motion to approve the Special Event Permit was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Considered Workers Compensation Insurance Proposal from Southern Insurance.** Southern Insurance presented a proposal to the Mayor and Council for workers compensations insurance. Hansell Bearden and Chuck Thomas, both owners in the company, explained how their proposal would help the City in the long run save money and create a more efficient claims filing system. Mr. Thomas stated that last year the city submitted fifty-three claims and if the account had been managed properly there should have been only five claims filed. He went on to say that the City should not be filing claims less than \$2,500 due to that being the city's deductible. He continued that those incidents would be reported to the insurance company so that they are put on notice, but the claims would be paid by the city directly. Motion to approve the Proposal was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members presents.

**Considered Community Development Block Grant Language Access Plan.** Motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant Language Access Plan was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved by all Council Members present.

**Considered Train Depot Proposal.** Councilman Cox stated that he felt this was a great first step toward starting off the project. City Manager Addleton stated that the projected would be managed by the Downtown Development Authority. Motion to approve the Train Depot Proposal was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members present.

**Considered Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief (ASADRA) Funding Applications.** City Manager Addleton stated that in April of 2020, the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) had a call for projects from those affected by Hurricane Michael. The program was called Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief (ASADRA). The city

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submitted our application on April 24, 2020 and out of thirteen cities the City of Cairo's allocation was \$800,000 at 0% interest for a ten year period with a 20% or \$160,000 loan forgiveness and would be awarded a successful loan application. With this allocation of funds we are planning to replace clay sewer mains and rehabilitate brick manholes primarily for the southeast outfall of the waste water treatment plant. This sewer line runs from the WWTP to the intersection of S. Broad Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and is the source of inflow and infiltration.

**Considered 2021 City Council Meeting Calendar.** Motion to approve the Council Meeting Calendar was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members present.

**Considered Cancelling or Rescheduling of the Council Meeting on December 28, 2020 due to the Christmas Holiday.** Motion to approve Cancelling Council Meeting was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members present.

**REPORTS:**

**1. Considered Reports for the Month of November 2020:**

- No Reports

**2. Reports From City Manager:**

- Department of Audit and Accounts – The Governor extended to local governments a ninety day extension due to the health emergency, so the city audit will be submitted in the first quarter of 2021.
- As a result of our participation in the Plan Implementation Assessment Meeting with SWGRC, the City of Cairo met the Excellence Standard. City Manager Addleton stated that he would like to thank all of the staff for their effort in making this possible.

**3. Reports From Mayor and Council:**

- Mayor Thrower stated that he had spoken with Michelle Thornton and Crystal Wells about vaccines that would become available for COVID-19. He stated they were asking for any medical professional whether it be EMS, EMT, Pharmacists, Paramedic, RN, LPN, NP, or students in these professions that are willing to help administer vaccines to the public. Their first point of distribution for the vaccine will be at Cairo High School.

**4. Chief Giovannie Santos Made Introductions of Two New Police Officers That Recently Completed Training.**

- Jermaine Lamons
- Clarence Williams

**ADJOURN:** At 7:46 pm motion was made by Councilman Cox to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**HOWARD THROWER, III, MAYOR**

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**DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK**