

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 22, 2019

The July 22, 2019 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Booker T. Gainor. Present were Mayor Pro tem Lannis Thornton, Council Members Demario J. Byrden, Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Asst. City Clerk Dana Barfield, and Main Street Director Celeste Tyler. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Gainor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda with an addendum was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 8, 2019 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: (Addendum) Sheryl Sealy and Sarah Baggett – CNS Next Rebrand Presentation. The two CNS Representatives were present to inform Council that CNS would be getting a re-branding after 20 years. Ms. Baggett stated that service and quality were the most important things that CNS offered, and “CNS NEXT” would have a refreshing new look with new product offerings.

SPECIAL EVENTS: (Addendum) Special Event Permit for Main Street Event – Street Closure: South Broad Street from 1st Avenue SW to 2nd Ave. /MLK for the Sweet Summer Concert to be held on August 9, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Main Street Director Celeste Tyler, Applicant. Motion was made by Councilman Byrden to approve the event, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members. Director Tyler informed the Council that the Flint River Band was to perform at the Concert.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan and Approval of Resolution. EMA Director Phillips was present to address some concerns expressed by Council Members upon review of the document prior to the last Council meeting. He stated that the City of Whigham, Grady County and FEMA had previously approved the document that would maintain eligibility for Federal mitigation funding; and no changes could be made at this point to names of those people who were in place when it was submitted. Councilman Cox asked about the timeline for the document, adding that he had no problem with the plan but wondered why it was so late coming to the Council. Director Phillips stated that it had been ready for a few months, but changes could only be made locally; and it would be updated every five years. Councilman Cox stated that it seemed that the meat of the plan was educating the community and asked if it could have a City representative included in it. Director Phillips added that he had ordered two message boards to have when needed. After discussion, motion to approve the plan and resolution was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-Zoning Ordinance for 390 5th Street, SE from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) to C-2 (Highway Commercial District) at the location identified as County Tax

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 22, 2019

Map C27, Parcel 101 - Owner: PJJJ, LLC (Phillip Drew). The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

Re-Zoning Ordinance for 1207 5th Street, SE from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to C-1A (Restricted Office-Institutional District) at the location identified as Parcel 74 of County Tax Map C29 – Owner: Dr. Bill Martin Bailey. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) AT&T (Cingular) and Verizon State-Wide Agreements. City Manager Addleton advised that ECG had negotiated with the small cell tower companies so that the cities would be exempted from Senate Bill 66. Atty. Lehman recommended approval of the agreements. After discussion, motion to approve the agreements was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

7th Ave., NW Street Closure around the backside of Azalea Park. City Manager Addleton and Police Chief Sandefur had looked at the road and recommended that a portion, from the driveway on the north side to the Azalea Park parking lot exit on the south side, be closed as there was no reason for anyone to be there except City utility crews. Councilman Thornton had made the request for closure due to complaints of illegal dumping and night-time activity. Council Members discussed methods for actual closing while also maintaining access for City crews. Councilman Cox asked that the road be opened back up temporarily for planned 5k runs and special events. After discussion, motion to approve the closing was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Street Resurfacing Master Plan- Phase 7. City Manager Addleton presented Phase 7 of the on-going Street Resurfacing Master Plan, advising that SPLOST and LMIG funds would be used to cover costs. After discussion, motion to approve the Phase 7 Plan was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

GDOT FY 2020 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program. City Manager Addleton advised that this year the City had been awarded \$166,417.31 in LMIG funds, with a required 30% match by the City of \$49,925.19 for a total of \$216,342.50. It had been proposed to direct those LMIG funds to the Phase 7 Street Resurfacing Master Plan (7.98 miles). Motion to approve the proposal was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

- 1.) **Departmental Reports for June 2019.** A Pump & Sold Water Report had not been included.
- 2.) **Reports from City Manager:**
 - City's insurance company has re-roofed the Dept. of Labor building, replacing tin on the GCC kitchen, and will start on the Fire Dept. roof in August, all as a result of storm damages.

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 22, 2019

- Confirmation received from FEMA & GEMA for reimbursement of \$299,000, 85% of utilities fixes from storm damages; a total of \$797,490 for hurricane costs.
- Police Dept. building is progressing well with the building currently being laid out.
- MacIvor Project going well, set to be completed in December.
- Street striping in process.

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Byrden commented on the recent concert held downtown, stating that he wanted future events to be more inclusive, due to black vendors being set up at the opposite end from the stage. City Manager Addleton informed him that nothing was done intentionally, and no one was told to go the back. Mr. V's was told to set up where he wished, and he chose his location. He added that the 2nd vendor did not arrive until 7:30, and the 3rd was not even registered but set up anyway. Councilman Byrden stated that the funnel cake lady was told where to set up, with City Manager Addleton adding that he was not satisfied with that location either, but maybe the solution would be to eliminate all vendors. Mayor Gainor suggested a first-come, first-served basis. Councilman Thornton suggested that vendors be required to be there at a certain time, and that this first time was a learning experience. Councilman Byrden also expressed disappointment with the minimal items that he received from CNS for the kids' give-a-way, with City Manager Addleton responding that it was what was available at the time due to the new re-branding coming up for CNS.
- Councilman Byrden presented three plaques for District Two purchased by himself. The first "Business of the Year" award went to Weston Funeral Home for everything they did for the community and was received by Kenneth Weston and two other representatives of the business. The "Humanitarian Award" went to Bethlehem AME Church for all their efforts after the storm and was accepted by Howard Copeland. The third was presented to Adrian Felder for his work at the Concert on the Lawn.
- Councilman Douglas referred to the high grass/nuisance ordinance suggesting that it be restructured so that the city manager could be allowed to declare a property a nuisance after the time period passed for the owner to cut their grass.
- Mayor Gainor asked about an over-grown lot near the Pickle Patch, with City Manager Addleton advising that the owner had been given two months to comply.
- Councilman Thornton reported that the garbage trucks were setting cans back down in the road. He also reported that grass was growing over and hiding a fire hydrant on 3rd Ave., NW. He reported that the railroad was working on the 10th St. tracts and requested that they be notified again about the tracts on 4th St.
- Councilman Gwaltney reported that the grass needed cutting on one side of South Broad St. He inquired if the rights-of-way on Highway 93 South near Ridgecrest was City or State, with City Manager Addleton advising that the City would probably have to cut it as they did on Highway 84, especially the deep ditch there.
- Councilman Cox expressed his strong desire to always promote Cairo and to help unify the City and its residents, adding that there are proper ways that

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 22, 2019

issues should be discussed and resolved when they arise. He asked for an “Amen” from other members of the panel who felt the same.

- Mayor Gainor expressed his thanks to the pool lifeguards, of which he was a certified volunteer, and to Dollar Business Solutions for supplying them, and also to their certification trainer. He stated that his desire was to see the pool well-maintained, one thing being to repair the fence by tightening the barbed wire, and to also consider a shelter for those parents who came to watch their kids swim. He also stated that he was working on a project for a parade to celebrate Jackie Robinson’s birthday on January 31st and would have more information later.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR

OTHER BUSINESS:

