

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 8, 2019

The July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Pro tem Lannis Thornton. Council Members present were Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Mayor Booker T. Gainor and Council Member Demario J. Byrden were absent from the meeting. Staff Members present were City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, and Asst. City Clerk Dana Barfield. City Manager Chris Addleton was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance was Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro tem Thornton.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 18, 2019 Combined Special and Regular Meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.) Special Event Permit Request for Street Closure on 2nd Ave., SW between MLK and 12th St., SW for Cooper Family Reunion on July 26, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight - Delois Parker, Applicant. After review, motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

2.) Special Event Permit Request for Street Closure on Teresa Edwards St. between Adams Ave., SW and 3rd Ave., SW - Cooper Family Reunion on July 27, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Allie Daniels, Applicant. After review, motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan and Approval of Resolution. In reviewing the plan, Council Members had some questions on wording, in particular members of the Executive Committee on Page 7 and a date on Page 74; therefore motion was made by Councilman Douglas, and seconded by Councilman Cox, to postpone the item until City Manager Addleton returns. Motion passed with all Council Members voting in favor.

Alcoholic Beverage Application, Change of Ownership – Casa Grande Bar and Grill – Beer and Wine, Retail Consumption Premises and Liquor, Retail Pouring - 2800 U. S. Hwy. 84 East – Amie M. Yu, Applicant. After review, motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 8, 2019

Addendum to Agenda:

1.) Public Hearing – Rezoning Request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to C-1A (Restricted Office-Institutional District) at the location of 1207 5th St., SE; identified as Parcel 74 of County Tax Map C29 – Owner: Dr. Bill Martin Bailey. Ms. Cecelia Bailey, 1822 Hadley Ferry Road, daughter-in-law of Dr. Bailey, was present to represent him. She stated that Dr. Bailey and the hospital had swapped some property, and a rezoning application had been denied in the 1990's; but the area had changed since with new doctors locating near the lot. She added that Dr. Bailey is planning to deed her the property, and she plans to sell it. Mrs. Betty Ragan, 1205 Ben Hill Ave., SE, located across Highway 93 from the property, stated that the property had not been kept up and was opposed to the rezoning due to traffic congestion concerns. She stated that on school days, traffic backs up on her street; and she cannot get out of her driveway. Mr. Tim Gurley, 504 Culpepper Dr., SE, stated that traffic coming out from 12th Ave., SE didn't seem to him to be an issue, and he wanted to see the abandoned house and property be used. After comments, the hearing was closed.

2.) Rezoning Request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to C-1A (Restricted Office-Institutional District) at the location of 1207 5th St., SE; identified as Parcel 74 of County Tax Map C29 – Owner: Dr. Bill Martin Bailey. Both the SWGRC and the Cairo Planning Commission had recommended approval of rezoning. Councilman Douglas stated that he understood that there may be some traffic concerns, but believed that this property needed improvement; and made motion to approve the rezoning. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members present. (Ordinance to be prepared and considered for adoption at the next meeting).

REPORTS:

1.) Reports from City Manager: City Manager Addleton was absent from the meeting.

2.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilmen Cox reported that he had been asked by two restaurant owners what the process would be for approval of Sunday alcohol sales. Council discussed the procedure for putting the referendum question on the ballot at the November General Election for the voters to decide whether they wanted to allow Sunday alcohol sales. City Clerk Lee advised that the call for the question to appear on the 2019 ballot would need to be at least 29 days prior to the November 5th election. Councilman Douglas asked the City Clerk Lee to send information on the timeframe to the Council.
- Referring to the old, overgrown Southern States business property on 1st Ave., NE, Councilman Douglas felt that the timeframe before overgrown lots became a “nuisance” was too long, and he requested that Atty. Lehman look at the Nuisance Ordinance to see how the process for having grass mowed or lots cleaned up could be shortened. He also asked about the 20th Street/Hammett matter, with Atty. Lehman asking to speak with him about it after the meeting. Councilman Douglas noted that some progress had been made, but the right-of-way north of the railroad was still covered.
- Mayor Pro tem Thornton requested that the street that runs around Azalea Park between 7th and 8th Ave., NW be closed, and asked City Manager Addleton and Chief Sandefur to look at it.

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ADJOURN: Motion was made by Councilman Cox to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK

LANNIS THORNTON, MAYOR PRO TEM