

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 26, 2019

The August 26, 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, and Asst. 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 Mayor Gainor.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 12, 2019 - Regular Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

### DELEGATIONS:

**1. Lequita LeGette – Regional Community Center.** Mrs. LeGette gave a history as well as updates on improvements to the Grady Cultural Center and the Zebulon Theatre.

**2. Bobby Rodriguez – Cairo Bombers and Use of Jackie Robinson Field at Holder Park.** Bobby Rodriguez of Thomasville, GA requested the use of Jackie Robinson Field during the week and some Saturdays. He expressed to the council that there were so many kids seeking entertainment and needing guidance in showing that there are opportunities available for them. Mr. Rodriguez explained that he would be bringing other teams in from surrounding cities for competition games for the Cairo Bombers. Councilman Douglas inquired if they would be only practicing or playing actual games as well, and if the team members would be from Cairo. Mr. Rodriguez responded that they would be practicing and playing games, and the members would be from Cairo. They would play games through the week and would end around 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at night. Councilman Thornton voiced his concern that there might be a conflict with the Cairo Reds who practiced on the field on Sundays. Mr. Rodriguez responded that he did not think that there would be a problem with the team because the Cairo Bombers activities would mostly be through the week. City Manager Addleton also stated that Mr. Rodriguez was an active member at the Jackie Robinson Boys & Girls Club. A motion to approve the use of Jackie Robinson Field at Holder Park by the Cairo Bombers was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**3. Barbara McDuffie-Lowe – “Organizing for Grady County”.** Barbara McDuffie-Lowe of Bainbridge, GA explained to the Mayor and Council that Organizing for Grady County was started about a year ago by she and Erica Hunter. The organization was involved in helping the community register to vote and provide transportation to and from polls for voting. They also held forums for citizens to inform them of what their local government actually did for them and would like to set up future meetings with council members to explain their responsibilities to the community.

**SPECIAL EVENTS: Special Event Permit- Grady County EMS, Health Fair at Davis Park, October 12, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Suzanne Little, Applicant.**

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Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the event, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Consider Setting a Final 2019 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate.** A motion was made by Councilman Douglas to set the net millage rate at 7.71 mills as recommended, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Consider Introduction of Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2019.** Ordinance was introduced and will be set for adoption at the next meeting.

**Consider Introduction of Revised Nuisance and Abatement Ordinance.** Ordinance was introduced but was postponed for further study.

**Consider Resolution for Sunday Alcohol Sales Referendum.** Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Reports:**

**1.) Reports from City Manager:** None

**2.) Reports from Mayor and Council:**

- Councilman Byrden referred to sidewalks on S. Broad St. and Holder Park Pool.
- Councilman Douglas took the time to thank Mrs. Carolyn Lee for all of her hard work and dedication over the last forty-six years. He stated that he and Mrs. Lee had worked together since 1974 in different capacities throughout the years for the city and that she would truly be missed.
- Councilman Thornton stated that he had served on the City Council for sixteen years and was very appreciative for all the help he received from Mrs. Lee.
- Councilman Douglas asked about mobile home inspections.
- Councilman Gwaltney also voiced his thanks stating that Mrs. Lee was always there to help and enjoyed their time working together.
- Councilman Gwaltney reported potholes at 1080 Brookwood Dr. and near 165 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., SE.
- Councilman Cox wished Mrs. Lee well on her retirement and thanked her for all she had done.
- Councilman Cox reported that people were still turning left off Highway 84 W onto 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., NW and asked that a solution be found to avoid a traffic hazard.
- Mayor Gainor also thanked Mrs. Lee for all of the help she'd given him.
- Mayor asked about a Poverty Workshop with City Manager requesting more info. He also asked Attorney Lehman about the U-Bill penalty matter. He also inquired about workshops in general for the Mayor and Council.
- City Manager Addleton stated that Mrs. Lee had always been wise counsel for him and someone he could turn to for advice and for that he was very thankful.

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- Attorney Lehman said he was going to miss Mrs. Lee. A lot of people did not realize how vast her knowledge was. If she did not know something, then she knew who to call to get the information you requested. She had always been very professional and extremely knowledgeable.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 6:46 p.m., motion to enter into executive session was made by Councilman Douglas for the reason checked below, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members:

To discuss hiring, appointing, compensating, disciplining, or dismissing an employee; (O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b) (2)).

At 6:55 p.m., motion to close the executive session was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present. There was no action taken as a result of the session.

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**DANA W. BARFIELD**  
**ASST. CITY CLERK**

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**BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR**