

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 10, 2020

The February 10, 2020 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 Jerry L. Cox, Demario Byrden, James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Dana Barfield, and Marketing Director Alyssa Blakley. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Booker T. Gainor.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 13, 2020 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

James Wilcox, Sr. and Teresa Gee Hardy - Consider Renaming North Washington Drive and East Washington Drive to JJ Wilcox Drive. – Mrs. Gee-Hardy explained to the Council that J. J. Wilcox was a native of Cairo/Grady County who had made it to the NFL and had not only made it to the NFL, but had also made tremendous contributions to the community. She and Mr. Wilcox, Sr. along with the majority of the residence on Washington Drive requested to rename the drive to JJ Wilcox Drive in honor of Mr. Wilcox, Jr. Motion to approve renaming Washington Drive to JJ Wilcox Drive was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members. After the motion was passed Councilman Douglas stated that he was not voting to approve the name change because Mr. Wilcox was a professional athlete, but because of what he had done for the community.

Jerry Mobley - Hog Pen Next to His Residence in City Limits. – Mr. Mobley was upset about hog pens being near his home, explaining that no one would want to live next to a hog pen. He stated that when he returned to Cairo fifteen years ago the Copelands had hogs next to his home and after all these years he is tired of having the smell beside his home. Mayor Gainor and Attorney Lehman explained that the Copeland's property was grandfathered in when the ordinance was put in place. Mr. Cleve Copeland, Sr. and Mr. Jerry Lee Copeland explained that they were soon to be out of the hog business due to the fact that there was not a market for hog sales any longer. They mainly have small pigs that have been castrated and once they are grown and have been sold they no longer plan to purchase anymore. Councilman Thornton asked how long they thought it would be before they were out of the hog business, Mr. Copeland stated that they thought it would be about a year, they would sell all of their hogs and be out of the business all together.

Jever McGhee – Improving School Bus Stop Characteristics and Child Safety Measures. – Mr. McGhee stated that he was there due to recent events of a young boy losing his life near a school bus stop. Mr. McGhee stated that he was interested to see what could be done to improve the environment for the children that live in the community. He asked the Council to improve the school zones and install new flashing lights and possibly speed detection monitors. Councilman Cox asked Mr. McGhee if he had spoken with the Board of Education and Mr. McGhee stated that he had not. Councilman Cox stated that he needed to speak with the Board of Education and the transportation staff because they would be the ones that would be able to make those types of changes. The City would then help based on the Board of Education recommendation.

Sondra Williams - Abandoned Homes on Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave SW. – Ms. Williams asked the Mayor and Council about why abandoned homes on M. L. K., Jr. Ave SW had not been addressed. She stated that these abandoned homes did not create a good look for the neighborhood nor did it have a profitable effect on the value of surrounding properties. City Manager Addleton informed Ms. Williams that two of the homes (1187 M. L. K., Jr. Ave SW and 1223 M. L. K., Jr. Ave SW) she was speaking of had already purchased demolition permits from the City Building Department. Ms. Williams also had pictures of other homes that she asked for the Mayor and Council to look into and City Manager Addleton informed her that we would need addresses for those homes so that the Building Department could go out and investigate.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Considered Special Event Permit –Back to School Drive at Azalea Park, July 25, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Shanterrian Maine, Applicant. Motion to approve the special event was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

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OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Considered Probation Services Agreement Between Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, Inc. and the Municipal Court of Cairo. - Motion to approve the probation agreement with changes was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Georgia Department of Community Affairs Revolving Loan Fund Loan Compliance and Certificate of Receipt of RLF Compliance Form. - Motion to approve Compliance and Certificate of Receipt of RLF Compliance Form was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Introduction of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 22, Entitled “Zoning” of the City of Cairo Code of Ordinances; To Permit Bed and Breakfast/Short Term Rental Units in Certain Zoning Districts; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Provide for an Effective Date and for Other Purposes - Mayor Gainor and Councilman Byrden had concerns about the ordinance stating that it was limited to three bedrooms, four adults and four children. Attorney Lehman explained that he took into consideration parking. If you had three bedrooms and had three vehicles then it may pose a problem in a residential area. Mayor Gainor also asked if the City would have to set the application fee. Attorney Lehman stated that yes, the City would have to set the fee, which would basically be a business license.

Considered Resolution Supporting a Revision to Subsections (b) and (c) of Section 2 of the South Georgia Governmental Service Authority Act. – Councilman Douglas stated that this is a four county deal. SGGSA is trying to amend the bylaws as it reflects in the City’s appointment, SGGSA voted to change this and he feels that we should pass a resolution to send to our representatives. Mayor Gainor stated that he felt that the changes were to accommodate one person. Mayor Gainor stated that he met with that person and was told he had to resign from CNS because of this very board due to a conflict of interest. Three years later it appeared that the same man that is requesting this, is a city manager of one city but lives in another city. Mayor Gainor explained that he felt that there were rules in place for a reason and we should not change them to accommodate one person. He stated he would not sign the resolution, but would give the Mayor Pro Tem the honor. Motion to approve the Resolution Supporting a Revision to Subsections (b) and (c) of Section 2 of the South Georgia Governmental Service Authority Act was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Reappointment of Matt McCaskill to the Cairo Development Authority. - Motion to appoint Matt McCaskill to the Cairo Development Authority was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Reappointment of Charles Davis to the Joint Development Authority. - Motion to appoint Charles Davis to the Joint Development Authority was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Cairo, the City of Whigham, and Grady County. - Motion to approve the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Intergovernmental Agreement was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Temporary Alcohol Special Event Caterer’s Permit – March 6, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm – Ward Davis Benefit Concert – Grady Cultural Center, Applicant – Cairo-Grady Chamber of Commerce. - Motion to approve the Temporary Alcohol Special Event Caterer’s Permit was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Discussed Bills Introduced in Current Legislative Session. – Councilman Douglas stated that the legislature is currently reviewing HB 523 – As it relates to Short Term Rentals, HB 302 and SB 172 – Preemption to Local Building Designs, HB 566 – Agendas for Open Meetings, and HB 465 Water Cost Bill of Rights. At this time they are opposing HB 523, HB302 & SB172, and HB 465. It would be up to the Council to go on record to pass a Resolution to oppose these four bills or if we want to oppose them individually. The bill for agendas for open meetings that

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the staff would need to be more concerned with is the agenda needing to be posted two weeks prior to the meeting and if you added anything it had to be public safety or preservation of property. Councilman Douglas also stated that he also felt that they were taking away local control with these bills. Councilman Thornton stated that he felt we should put a resolution together. Motion to pass a Resolution to oppose HB 523, HB 302, SB172, HB 566 and HB465 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Consider Departmental Reports for December 2020.

- Mayor Gainor commented that we were still having problems with alarms.
- Councilman Byrden inquired as to whether our code enforcement officer could be a peace officer as well so that they would have the ability to issue city citations. City Manager Addleton explained that our code enforcement officer did have the ability to write city citations to residents.
- Councilman Cox commented about OT in the Police Department, with City Manager Addleton responding that we had recently hired two new officers.

2.) Reports from City Manager:

- Archway Public Input Meeting – Thursday March 5, 2020 9:00 am and 5:00 pm
- MacIvor Water Plant is nearly complete. They are completing software testing now and will hopefully have it in service early March.
- The lease will run out on the U.S. Post Office and we will be transferring that lease to the Post Office.

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Mayor Gainor shared information about Neighborhoods Revitalizing – Land Bank Creation Program
- Mayor Gainor also informed the Council that he had a 66-year-old citizen tell him that she contacted 911 Saturday night, and no one picked up the phone.
- Mayor Gainor asked if the dead trees that were being cut down and put on the side of the street would be picked up. City Manager Addleton responded that if they were cut to the size the City Ordinance stated they would be picked up.
- Mayor Gainor also wanted to check the status of the situation with CSX and Broad Street to find out if they were going to come back and do repairs on the R. R. Crossing.
- Mayor Gainor concluded with 12th Avenue NW, Semi-Trucks are still going down this road and tearing down road signs.
- Councilman Byrden asked if we could revisit the option of putting slabs down at Forest Lawn Cemetery. He stated that where the vaults are placed the ground is sinking in and it is making the cemetery look bad. He feels that the slabs would make the appearance of the cemetery look better.
- Councilman Byrden also congratulated Councilman Douglas for receiving Man of the Year; and he extended a thank you to Trey Gainous and his staff for putting on a great Chamber Banquet.
- Councilman Douglas commented about all the campaigning signs starting to show up for the Sheriff's race and feels that a copy of the City's sign ordinance needs to be given to each candidate.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

JERRY L. COX, MAYOR PRO TEM

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK