

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 9, 2020

The March 9, 2020 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 Jerry L. Cox. Present were 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 Public Works Director Darin Todd. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry L. Cox.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 24, 2020 - Regular Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 24, 2020 - Workshop:** Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members.

### DELEGATIONS:

**Thomas Lehman, City of Cairo Attorney – Statement to Council and Public. –** Attorney Lehman issued a public apology to Mayor Gainor and all the other parties having an interest in the repercussions of his decision to qualify as a candidate for Georgia State Representative. Attorney Lehman stated that he was truly sorry for giving Mr. Gainor the erroneous information. His concern for Cairo and its citizens are deeply appreciated by me and I encourage and support his continued involvement in public office within our community and beyond. Attorney Lehman informed the Council that a special election could be held May 19, 2020 to fill the remaining term of Mayor. Booker T. Gainor addressed the Council and apologized for putting them in this situation. He stated that he thought he went through everything the best way by consulting a 30-year veteran attorney to get the correct information to see exactly what he needed to run for State Representative, he said he also consulted with the school board to make sure he did not violate any rules. He wanted to encourage the council to keep pressing forward and doing the good work for the citizens of Cairo. Councilman Byrden asked when was the first time Mr. Gainor spoke with Attorney Lehman and Mr. Gainor stated that he spoke with Attorney Lehman on February 10, 2020. Councilman Byrden stated that he felt like it was a setup from the beginning. Councilman Byrden stated that you should do right by the people, if you do not like them then you vote them out the next time. Councilman Byrden went on to say I understand that you want to do something greater than what you are, but being the first black mayor is important to me and I want black Americans to look up to you -kids and everyone, but this all just sounds intentional.

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

**Consider Permit for Parades, Marches, Walks and Demonstrations – Jackie Robinson Boys & Girls Club 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am, Jackie Robinson Boys & Girls Club/Amy Hagan - Applicant.** Motion to approve the special event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**Consider Special Event Permit – St. Thomas P. B. Church – Easter Egg Hunt at Southern Terrace Park, April 11, 2020 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, St. Thomas P. B. Church/Latrena Perry – Applicant. -** Motion to approve the special event was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**Consider Special Event Permit –Tent Revival at 514 8<sup>th</sup> Street SW, April 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Jim Reese – Applicant. -** Motion to approve the special event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**Consider Special Event Permit –Cairo Quality of Life Community Event at Cairo Airport on Saturday, April 11, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Cairo Quality of Life/Mayor Booker Gainor – Applicant. -** Motion to approve the special event was made by

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Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Consider Adoption 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.** Motion to approve Ordinance with a fourteen day implementation date and a \$75 business license fee was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Reports:**

- 1.) **#2 Water Plant and SCADA Presentation.**
  - City Manager Addleton gave a presentation of the new MacIvor Water Plant from the start of construction to completion.
  - Public Works Director, Darin Todd gave a presentation on how the City’s SCADA system controls each water plant and how he can monitor each plant remotely via laptop, iPad, or cell phone.
  
- 2.) **Consider Financial Reports for the Months of October and November 2019.** Motion to approve Financial Reports for the Months of October and November 2019 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.
  
- 3.) **Consider Department Reports for February 2020.**
  - Councilman Cox asked if the Fire Department’s false alarms go through 911, City Manager Addleton responded that they do.
  
- 4.) **Reports from City Manager:**
  - We received a letter from DNR about Southern Terrace; we have passed the first level application and now can complete our second level application.
  - We received priority mail from the US Postal Service that states that our lease term expires April 11, 2020 at which time we will convey the title of the land, building and improvements.
  - Archway completed a public input meeting for the railroad depot that was well attended. They will now compile the top uses at a later date and see what they come up with.
  - Compliments to Alyssa Blakely for the Friday concert event, it went off really well and was well received.
  
- 5.) **Reports from Mayor and Council:**
  - Councilman Douglas said he wanted to jump on board with City Manager Addleton about the Friday concert. There was a great crowd and as they walked back to the car, he saw several car tags from out of town and was glad that it brought new people into Grady County.

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**JERRY L. COX, MAYOR PRO TEM**

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**DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK**