

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 23, 2020

The March 23, 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, and 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 Councilman Thornton.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 9, 2020 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

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

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Considered Calling for a Special Election for the Office of Mayor of the City of Cairo to be held on May 19, 2020. Motion to approve Special Election on May 19, 2020 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Considered Setting the Qualifying fee of \$244.80 and the Qualifying Period of March 30, 2020 and March 31, 2020 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and April 1, 2020 from 8:30 to 12:30 pm for the Special Election to be held on May 19, 2020 for the Office of Mayor of the City of Cairo. Motion to approve Qualifying fee and period was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Reports:

1.) Reports from City Manager:

- There will be a public statement put on the City of Cairo website and Facebook page. The City of Cairo is committed to providing our citizens with essential services. Some of our normal methods of operations have changed and we are asking people to be patient and understanding during this time. We are asking the public to continue to patronize local businesses while practicing social distancing and good hygiene. City Manager Addleton also wanted to reiterate the orders Governor Kemp has put in place. He has issued a ban on gatherings of 10 or more people and ordered a shelter in place of medically fragile residents for two weeks, he has given the Department of Public Health, which is under the umbrella of the County, authority to close business or non-profits including churches that do not comply with those rules. His order bans all gatherings of more than ten people unless they can insure spacing of at least six feet of distance at all times. Grocery stores and other business that can maintain social distances will be allowed to stay open.
- Southwest Georgia Cities and Counties will be having a conference call with Governor Kemp at 11:00 am, March 24, 2020.
- City Manager stated that the rail road tracks on Broad Street were being repaired and he would like to thank Van Gandy, he is the one that has made it happen this fast. Mr. Gandy said that it was not done right the first time and that he would make it right.

2.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

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- Councilman Cox gave a statement concerning the COVID-19 virus from the Federal and State Government.
- Councilman Byrden asked if there was something we could do about city residents on the utility cut off list since there may be some that would be out of work due to COVID-19. City Manager Addleton responded that we are willing to work with all city residents. His suggestion was that people on the cut off list needed to be proactive and not wait until they are cut off to try and make a payment plan with Carolyn Robinson, Utilities Billing Director.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

JERRY L. COX, MAYOR PRO TEM

DANA W. BARFIELD CITY CLERK