

SPECIAL MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 27, 2020

The March 27, 2020 Special Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.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, Fire Chief Bill Schafer, Police Chief Giovannie Santos 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 City Manager Addleton.

Considered Joint Declaration of a Public Health Emergency by the City of Cairo, City of Whigham, and Grady County Board of Commissioners in Response to COVID-19. Mayor Pro Tem Cox began by saying that he and City Manager Addleton were invited to a meeting on Wednesday March 24, 2020 and the County announced their need to declare a state of emergency for Grady County, City of Cairo and City of Whigham. Some of those reasons are to stress the seriousness of the situation to the citizens of Cairo, Grady County, and Whigham. Mayor Pro Tem Cox stated that not everyone in the community had been following the directive issued. The Department of Public Health who had been give the authority and responsibility to inforce those directives needed a commitment from the local governments to support them in their efforts. Mayor Pro Tem Cox continued to say that we want to improve the position of our community to possibly qualify for future FEMA funds and reimbursements funds. Some citizens have also asked for local government to take action, as local government elected officials have sworn an oath to protect the welfare of our citizens. A draft was presented the day we met with Grady County officials for us to study overnight, make comments and adjustments. The final State of Emergency was put together the next morning. This document was put together after consulting with Georgia Department of Health, local attorneys, local law enforcement, FEMA, GEMA, Archbold Health Services, GMA, and a review of several other state of emergencies declared throughout Georgia. The primary theme of this document is for people to follow the social distancing, hand washing, and other guidelines issued by the C.D.C., the sooner we all follow the guidelines the sooner we can all get back to our normal lives. Mayor Pro Tem Cox stated that he was cautious of such action to begin with but after hearing the experts local and statewide, he now believes that this is necessary to stress to everyone in Grady County the seriousness of this situation and to focus everyone on what it will take to defeat this virus. Motion to approve the Joint Declaration of Public Health Emergency was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

JERRY L. COX, MAYOR PRO TEM

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK