

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 24, 2020

The August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Howard Thrower, III presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Cox, Council Members Lannis Thornton, Demario Byrden, James H. Douglas, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Staff Members in attendance were City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Manager Chris Addleton, and HR Director Sandra Roberts. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind along with Times Enterprise Reporter Eric Yabor were also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Douglas.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Regular Meeting – August 10, 2020. Motion to approve the minutes, with a correction to indicate Councilman Douglas as being in attendance at the August 10, 2020 meeting, was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Consider Special Event Permit – Church Tent, September 4 -8, 2020 from 6 PM-10 PM. Jim Reese, Applicant. It was stated that Mr. Reese wanted to change the ending time of the event to 9 PM instead of 10 PM. Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Reconsider Special Event Permit- “Hot Bed” Community Reunion – Road Closure/Street Blocked Off on 9th St. NW from 8th Ave. NW to 9th AVE NW – August 29, 2020 from 8 AM – 5 PM – Fergus and Carolyn Robinson, Applicants. Councilman Thornton commented that the reunion had been previously approved, but expressed concerns that had been shared with him about the Covid 19 numbers increasing and the crowd that may attend the event. The applicant, Mr. Robinson, was present and clarified that he did not expect more than 50-60 people to attend based on previous years reunions. He explained that the community had made donations, and that he personally had donated money for the event. His hope was to prepare and deliver food to area churches, as well as discuss the census and upcoming election. He added that those in attendance would practice social distancing and that masks and sanitizer would also be used. After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to cancel the reunion until a later date. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Councilman Cox and Mayor Thrower praised Mr. Robinson for what he is doing within the community and asked that he please continue. Councilman Byrden also offered his support and understanding.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6 Captioned “Buildings; Construction and Related Activities” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cairo by Adding Article XVII Entitled “Solar Energy Systems”. Motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Consider Request by the Superintendent of Grady County Schools to Expand the School Zone on MLK Jr. Ave Two Blocks West from its Current Location at 15th St. SW to Legion Boulevard and the Request by the City Manager to Revise the City of Cairo’s Ordinance for the School Zone for MLK Jr. Ave. Motion to approve the request to expand the school zone two blocks west to Legion Blvd. and revise the City of Cairo’s ordinance was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Consider Combining FY 2021 and FY 2022 Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Local Maintenance & Improvement Grants (LMIG) to Fund the South Broad Street Curb, Cutter, Resurface and Sidewalk Improvements Project, Authorization for the Mayor to Execute the GDOT LMIG Local Government Affidavit and Certification, and Sign the Cover Letter. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously.

Consider 2020 Application for Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License – Tired Creek

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Management Company LLC, 1701 Hwy 84 West, Timothy Andrews, Applicant. Motion to approve the license was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:

CARES Funding from Phase I, Round I and II had been justified and approved. A portion of that would be used to pay the line of credit down.

A walk through of the new Police Department had been completed and a comprehensive punch list had been made, with plans to officially move in the 2nd week of September.

Southern Terrace Park was temporarily closed to remove trees which would aid in future park improvements.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL.

Councilman Thornton reported yard debris on Copeland Avenue between the 1000 and 1100 block, as well as, Harlem Avenue.

Councilman Gwaltney asked if the side arm mover could be used on Forest Glen along with the ditches on Oakdale.

Councilman Cox discussed storm preparedness, the importance of the Census, and encouraged everyone to follow the CDC Guidelines

Councilman Byrden reminded everyone to wear their masks.

Councilman Douglas asked Attorney Lehman about the grass and abandoned trailers on the lot at 3rd Street/1st Avenue NE, with Lehman explaining notice had been sent to the land owners. Douglas also asked about the 20th Street NE property. Attorney Lehman stated we would be moving towards a trial.

Mayor Thrower reported that he had talked to medical professionals recently and each expressed the importance of wearing masks and social distancing, as the numbers in our area were increasing by 10 + a day. He was told that education is crucial and we must do what is necessary to spare our most vulnerable population. He had learned that the gaiter type masks could actually do more harm than good and the masks with the vents are not made to prevent the spread of viruses.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Douglas and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

HOWARD THROWER, III
MAYOR

ATTEST:

SANDRA ROBERTS