

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

The September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Howard Thrower, III. Present were Councilmen Jerry Cox, Sr., Demario Byrden, Jimmy Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members present were City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Manager Chris Addleton, 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 Byrden.

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

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

DELEGATIONS:

Jeff Mills – Community Involvement Areas Need Work - Transparency. – Jeff Mills, 802 Loblolly Lane. Mr. Mills stated that he received a letter concerning Lieutenant Cromartie that was very disturbing and asked if anything happened would someone have her back. Mr. Mills went on to say several citizens in Cairo carry guns and asked if there were protocols in place so that when serious situations took place they were properly handled. Councilman Byrden stated that the Chief of Police sends our officers to training through G. P. S. T. C. and are trained for duty concerning these types of situations and he was very confident in our police department that we are prepared for any type of issue that might arise. Mr. Mills then stated that the City Manager and some of the Councilmen needed to ride around the City to allow the citizens to get to know them.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Considered Special Event Permit – Community Outreach at Azalea Park, September 19, 2020 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Grady County Georgia Republican Women/Barbara Darus and Julie Scarbrough – Applicant. Motion to approve the Special Event Permit was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Considered Setting a Proposed 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate and Advertise the Five (5) Year History. City Manager Addleton stated that he recommended setting a tentative Millage rate at 7.720 mills and advertising the Five (5) Year History. Motion to approve the 7.720 Millage Rate and Advertise the Five Year History was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

- 1. Considered Departmental Reports for the Month of July 2020.**
 - Councilmen Douglas asked about their being seventy-four alcohol license checks. City Manager Addleton stated that we probably had to go out multiple times for rechecks.
 - Councilman Douglas questioned on Case #15 – 1097 Bondvilla Dr NE that went to court on August 12th as to why it was not completed. City Clerk Barfield informed him that Judge Bell stated that he was going to look into the case further.
 - Councilman Douglas also stated that there were several remodels/demos that are past six months and asked Attorney Lehman where we were on modifying the city ordinance. Attorney Lehman stated that we were in line with what the state statues says. We have to give them one hundred and eighty days, but we have to stay on them and monitor them very closely so that they do not play games with us. Councilman Cox said the one hundred and eighty days would have to be the drop dead date and he challenged the Building Department to hold the customer to the checklist of a thirty, sixty, and ninety day checkoff.
- 2. Reports From City Manager:**

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- Cairo Police Department moved in and are operational. We need to decide how and when we would like to do an open house.
- We received a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant for water improvements for west of S. Broad St. along 13th Avenue and possible construction to start in the summer time.
- At Southern Terrace Construction has started, contractors have started removing trees.
- September 17, 2020 at 9:30 am there will be a ceremony held for renaming the overpass to “Veterans Memorial Bridge”.

3. Reports From Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Cox asked since the Police Department has now moved when we would be able to take some action on the Depot. City Manager Addeleton stated he did not see any actions being taken until at least 2021, but that options did need to be discussed.
- Councilman Thornton asked about the street sweeper and City Manager Addeleton informed him that Community Service Director Pat Mitchell was in the process of getting three quotes and he had a demo coming down.
- Councilman Thornton also noted that Taylor Waste was leaving a lot of debris behind that needs to be picked up.
- Councilman Thornton added that flowers/shrubbery is growing on the right of way and into the street on 4th Avenue NW between 3rd Street NW and 4th Street NW.
- Councilman Gwaltney stated that trees are obstructing the view when turning right off of Brookwood Dr SE onto 7th Avenue SE.
- Councilman Byrden stated that he was extremely glad that work has started at Southern Terrace. To all the new police officers he wanted to extend a congratulations to. He went on to say that he knows it will be tough but prays that they all will do well and come home very successful policemen for Cairo.
- Mayor Thrower informed the Council that Lew Oliver, Inc. would be coming to Cairo, October 5-8. He will be bringing his design team with him to help brand, market, and redesign how Cairo should look. He will have about two dozen participants from Cairo working with him.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

HOWARD THROWER, III, MAYOR

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK