

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – September 23, 2019

The September 23, 2019 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Booker T. Gainor. Present were Mayor Pro tem Lannis Thornton, Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Councilman Demario J. Byrden was absent from the meeting. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and Asst. 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 Mayor Gainor.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 09, 2019 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

1. Charles Renaud – Airbnb. Charles Renaud of 1325 5th Street NW, Cairo, GA presented information about bringing Airbnb opportunities to the City of Cairo. Renaud stated that you would qualify on line for short term and long-term rentals. City Manager Addleton explained that the City Ordinance does not allow Airbnb at this time, but requested Attorney Lehman to research the matter. Addleton also stated that this could be a benefit to the City by generating hotel/motel tax revenue. Attorney Lehman stated that we would have to meet certain state standards and codes in allowing this to happen. Mayor Gainor also commented that this may possible motivate residents to keep their property maintained.

2.) Jevor McGhee – Holder Park. – Mr. McGhee was not Present- City Manager Addleton informed the Mayor and Council that McGhee wanted to report a large pothole in front of the dumpster in Holder Park parking lot. It was discussed that repair of the pothole could be done after green season ended.

3.) Dawn Harrison – “GEAR UP Georgia”- Mayor Gainor presented GEAR UP Georgia and Dawn Harrison with an award for their efforts in helping students from lower income families have more opportunities in helping with their education. He also stated that the week of September 23, 2019 is National GEAR UP Georgia week.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.) Special Event Permit - Main Street Event – Street Closure: South Broad Street from 2nd Ave/MLK to 1st AVE SW, Main Street Concert, October 18, 2019, 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Alyssa Blakley, Main Street Director, Applicant. - Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the event, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

2.) Special Event Permit – MLK Parade and Prayer Vigil Walk, January 19– 20, 2020, Renee Gee Theophille and MLK Collaborative Group, Applicant. - Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the event, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

3.) CHS Homecoming Parade, November 7, 2019, 5:00 pm, Chris Lokey, Applicant. - Motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the event, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

4.) Special Event Permit for Street Closure: Broad Street From MLK to 3rd Avenue NE, Boo on Broad, October 31, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Alyssa Blakley, Main Street Director, Applicant. - Motion was made by Councilman Cox to approve the event, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

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Street Resurfacing Master Plan – Phase 7. City Manager Addleton informed the Mayor and Council that three bids were received for the Street Resurfacing – Phase 7 Project and The Scruggs Company came in with the lowest bid at \$962,373.94. This will resurface 8 miles of streets in four quadrants of the city as well as replacing guardrails in three locations. This will be funded through the SPLOST in 2020 and the Georgia Department of Transportation LMIG. Councilman Cox asked if there was a priority as to where paving could start. City Manager Addleton responded that it was usually up to the paving company, but we could ask before they started. After discussion, motion to approve the Phase 7 resurfacing and entering into an agreement with The Scruggs Company was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider Introduction of Revised Nuisance and Abatement Ordinance. Ordinance was introduced. Councilman Douglas stated that this way the City Manager would not have to come before the Mayor and Council so that it would expedite the process.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

- 1.) **Financial Report for July 2019.** After discussion, a motion to approve the July 2019 Financial Report was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.
- 2.) **Reports from City Manager:**
 - The Georgia Department of Community Affairs denied our application for the FY2019 CDBG Grant. City Manager Addleton stated that the Grant was intended for water improvements on the SW side of town. He added that we had some very good pictures of the water lines that showed corrosion and build up and lines that were not to the diameter they should be. The Department of Community Affairs will give us feedback on scoring criteria and we will make improvements to the application and resubmit in April 2020.
 - GMA District 10 Fall Meeting will be October 9, 2019, at 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in Baconton, GA.
- 3.) **Reports from Mayor and Council:**
 - Councilman Douglas wanted to remind candidates running for elections to remember there was a city ordinance concerning signs on right of ways.
 - Councilman Douglas also wanted to discuss recent comments made to the newspaper concerning himself, the City Manager, Finance Director, and Finance Committee as a whole stating that no one on the council or staff looks at any of the budget issues. He wanted to set the record straight and inform the community that these accusations were farfetched and not quite right. The City Manager takes a lot of time and effort with the Finance Director and staff to prepare a budget. Councilman Douglas stated that numerous budget meetings were scheduled, with no attendance from the public; we also have finance committee meetings every other month and look at the financial statements and how it coincides with the budget.
 - Councilman Thornton stated that 4th Avenue NW down S. Broad ST to 4th Street NW needs mowing.
 - Councilman Gwaltney requested an update as to where we were on live streaming meetings. City Manager Addleton advised that he contacted our IT agent and was informed that live streaming was something that we could do for around \$2,000.00 and streaming it on Facebook would be the most cost effective way. Councilman Douglas voiced his concerns about not everyone being on Facebook and that he would not be in favor if that were the only media outlet used. Mayor Gainor stated that there are many citizens that work late or have ballgames, that are otherwise engaged in activities who want to be here but cannot. Councilman Cox agreed that he did not think it should be on Facebook only, that it needed to be on the website as well.
 - Councilman Cox reported on 11th Avenue NW an over hanging tree at the corner.
 - Councilman Cox also inquired if we were still closing the road around Azalea Park. City Manager Addleton informed him we were, that Pat Mitchell the Community Service Director was having someone build gates for both sides of the road.

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- Mayor Gainor asked about repairs of sidewalks on S. Broad Street. City Manager Addleton stated that the sidewalks from 4th Avenue needed replacing and is hopeful that when we are able to complete repairs to the entire road we will then be able to repair the sidewalks.

ADJOURN: Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**DANA W. BARFIELD
ASST. CITY CLERK**

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR