

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JANUARY 14, 2019

The January 14, 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 Robert L. Gwaltney and Council Members Demario J. Byrden, Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Erik Yabor.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Gainor.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR 2019.

After discussion, Councilman Cox made motion to nominate Councilman Thornton as Mayor Pro tem for 2019. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: City Manager Addleton advised that the item to discuss the Landfill excavator needed to be pulled from the agenda for this meeting. Motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of that item was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Forest Lawn Cemetery Improvements – Award of Bid and Contract Agreement. (Expansion of Section B to include grading, storm drainage, and street base/asphalt). Five bids were received as follows: **1.)** Cal-Mart, Inc. - \$94,122.00; **2.)** Southern Contractors - \$99,385.08; **3.)** The Scruggs Company - \$111,481.00; **4.)** HTS Construction, Inc. - \$130,232.02; and **4.)** Oxford Construction - \$177,846.13. It was recommended to award the project to the low bidder. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to award the bid to Cal-Mart, Inc. in the amount of \$94,122.00 and enter into a contract agreement, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Introduction of Alcohol Ordinance. Some final revisions had been made to the proposed ordinance which would completely replace the current one upon its adoption. Some of the new areas addressed in the ordinance were the designation of special event districts where open containers of alcohol would be allowed outdoors during special events with certain stipulations. Alcohol caterers and catering regulations were added, along with alcohol manufacturing including brewpubs; serving of alcohol in bed and breakfasts, hair/nail salons, and art studios. The ordinance was introduced and will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

Introduction of Ordinance to Amend “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions – Disorderly Conduct – Open Container Violation Exception”. Proposed changes in the alcohol ordinance necessitated changes, or exceptions, in the Open Container Ordinance as well. The exceptions would allow alcohol to be consumed in open areas of sidewalk and open-air cafes with

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alcohol licenses, at golf courses, or city sanctioned or sponsored special events within the boundaries of certain designated event districts. The ordinance was introduced and will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

November 5, 2019 General Election – Fixing and Publishing of Qualifying Fees.

After Council review of the August 19 through 23 qualifying period and qualifying fee of \$219.60 for Councilmen for Districts 1, 3, and 5, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to set and publish the fee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Purchase/Lease of Landfill Excavator. Council had taken action upon agenda approval to remove this item from the agenda and bring it back at a future meeting.

Appointment to South Georgia Governmental Services Authority (SGGSA) Board (three-year term). Mayor Gainor offered to serve, noting that his former employment experience with CNS made him qualified to be on the authority. Councilman Cox recognized the Mayor's abilities but stated that he believed the board needed Councilman Douglas's financial background. After discussion, Councilman Cox made motion to re-appoint Councilman Douglas to the Board, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Cancellation or Rescheduling of the January 28, 2019 Council Meeting due to conflict with Mayor's Day Conference. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to cancel the meeting unless it became necessary to have one. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

Financial Reports for September 2018. The reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee, with Councilman Douglas reporting that some end-of-the year things were still being worked on but it was being caught up. He made motion to approve the report. Councilman Cox seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Departmental Reports for December 2018. Council Members discussed the reports, with Councilman Cox requesting that the number and costs of false alarms be looked at to see if there was any abuse. Charging for false alarms was also discussed if that might become necessary. With regard to the Police Dept. overtime report, Councilman Cox suggested that an analysis be made to determine if an additional position to the force was justified based on the overtime being paid. City Manager Addleton noted that the department was fully staffed, and that was the reason the overtime had dropped. He had also met with Building Official Hayes and reported on the status of listings on the nuisance abatement report. Councilman Thornton asked if a burned house at 820 9th St., NW was on the list.

Reports from City Manager.

- MLK Parade to be held on Monday, January 21st. The fire truck would be available.
- Would be responding to a dinner invitation for Mayor and Council from MEAG at the GMA Conference.
- Met with FEMA last Tuesday regarding reimbursement for the approximately \$750,000 in hurricane costs.

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- Asked for direction on Holder Park Pool repairs. \$27,000 spent last year, with \$50,000 left to repair. Mayor Gainor wants some building repair done also (stalls).

Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Byrden reported that the drainage ditch from Southern Terrace that runs between Oriac Ave. and 12th Ave., SW needs to be dug out. He also asked if the City could go ahead and do some things at Southern Terrace, such as basketball goals and rims, fencing, lighting, and tree removal. He reported that the basketball courts had still not been pressure-washed and painted at Holder Park.
- Councilman Douglas asked if employees, other than Code Enforcement, could be instructed to pick up illegal signs on the rights-of-way, and also if Council Members were allowed to do the same.
- Councilman Gwaltney reported that he had received several complaints regarding Forest Lawn Cemetery. He requested that items and trinkets that are not allowed and interfere with maintenance of the cemetery be removed by the City. He also reported that deep ruts were left at the cemetery by grave-digging equipment, with Councilman Byrden showing a picture of this to the Council.
- Councilman Cox asked that the City be more aggressive with promoting and marketing the downtown area, as marketing funds were available for use. He also felt citizens needed to have more pride in the community, noting that people stood in groups on the sidewalk downtown smoking cigarettes, and butts were being thrown down in that area. City Manager Addleton noted that the DDA planning session was coming up shortly, and plans would be considered at that time.
- Mayor Gainor invited the Council to the Mayor's Charity Ball coming up, stating that he hoped to raise \$5,000 for charity this year. He would also highlight the Top 10 under 40.

Executive Session:

At 6:50 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Thornton to enter into Executive Session: To discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property, or to enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)); and to meet with Attorney Lehman to discuss a pending or potential lawsuit, settlement, claim, administrative proceeding or other judicial action brought against or by the city, or any officer or employee of the city, or in which the City or any officer or employee may be directly involved.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

At 7:10 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Douglas to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. There was no action taken as a result of the Session.

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

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR