

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

The October 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 Lannis Thornton, Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Demario Byrden. Councilman Robert L. Gwaltney 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 was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 23, 2019 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

1.) Brian Johnson – Leasing City Property at LAS Site for Bow Hunting.

Brian Johnson of 867 Bold Springs Rd., Cairo, GA is requesting to lease four hundred acres of the City's LAS site. Since it is one month into the hunting season and there is work to do before being able to hunt the land, Mr. Johnson is offering \$7.50 per acre, which would come to \$3,000 for the current year; and then for the year 2020 he would offer \$10.00 per acre, which would come to \$4,000 per year. He would also planned to get the proper liability insurance needed to release the City from any issues. Mr. Johnson stated that he only planned to bow hunt on the property with up to two to three friends that he would list on the contract. Councilman Douglas stated that he did not think that we needed to lease city property, that it is a liability for the city. If the city did decide to lease the property, we would need to open it up to the public and receive bids. Councilman Cox agreed that if hunting were allowed that bids needed to be taken to make it fair to the public. Mayor Gainor asked for Attorney Lehman's opinion and he stated that even though Mr. Johnson would have his own liability insurance the city would be a natural target if something happened.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.) Special Event Permit – First Assembly of God, Road Closure for Thanksgiving Outreach, November 22, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Travis Harrison, 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 – Church Tent Revival, 514 8th Street SW, Nov. 1-3, 2019, Jim Reese, Applicant. – Event will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the event pending Mr. Reese obtained signatures from neighbors approving the event, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – Rezoning Request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) at the location of 425 Church Street SW; identified on County tax map C14, parcel 163. Owner: Willie C. Myles, Jr. – Mr. Myles stated that he and his family were upgrading their home to a newer mobile home and requested to rezone from R1A to R-1.

Consider Rezoning request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1 (Single-family Residential District) At the location of 425 Church Street SW; identified on County tax map C14, parcel 163. Owner: Willie C. Myles, Jr. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the rezoning, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Public Hearing – Rezoning Request from I-1 (Light Industrial District) to AG

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(Agricultural District) at the location of 1274 Highway 111 North; identified on County tax map 67, parcel 3.1 Owner: Michael Chad Johnson, Jr.– Mr. Johnson requested to rezone property to agricultural so that he may build a single family home. He had resurveyed five acres of the property so that he could qualify for a secondary market. Councilman Douglas asked if he was requesting to rezone just the five acres or the entire property. Mr. Johnson stated that he was asking to rezone the entire property.

Considered Rezoning request from I-1 (Light Industrial District) to AG (Agricultural District) at the location of 1274 Highway 111 North; identified on County tax map 67, parcel 3.1/ Owner: Michael Chad Johnson, Jr. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve rezoning, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Public Hearing – Rezoning request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) at the location of 622 4th Street NW; identified on County tax map C12, parcels 74 & 74.1. Owner: Private Mortgage Group, LLC (Richard Jordan). There was no input from the public.

Consider Rezoning request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) at the location of 622 4th Street NW; identified on County tax map C12, parcels 74 & 74.1. Owner: Private Mortgage Group, LLC (Richard Jordan). Motion was made by Councilman Cox to approve rezoning, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Consider Petition for Annexation. - Chuck Thomas of 1411 Lakefront Drive NW, Cairo, requested that the property located on Highway 84 West be annexed into the city limits. He had a group of investors that is interested in the property and have plans of constructing additional buildings on the land in the future. The investors are also requesting to have the property rezoned to C-1. Councilman Cox made a motion to move forward with the annexation, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Consider One-Way Street for Bethlehem AME Church. – The members of Bethlehem AME Church are requesting that the Council consider making 2nd Street SW a one-way street down to 6th Avenue SW on Sundays only. After discussion, motion was made to prepare an ordinance by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Consider Roddenbery Memorial Library Agreement. – Attorney Lehman informed the Council that the Library Board had considered increasing the number of board members for a few years. They wanted to increase the members from three to seven members. The existing agreement consists of five-year terms, but the board would like to change it to three-year terms. Councilman Douglas made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Consider Adoption of Nuisance And Abatement Ordinance. – Motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered November 5, 2019 General/Special Election. – Assistant City Clerk Dana Barfield asked to appoint Sadie Voyles as Chief Manager, Howard Cochran as Asst. Manager, and Carolyn Robinson as Asst. Manager. Compensation amounts were also discussed for poll workers. (Recommended was \$160.00 for the Poll Manager, \$130.00 for Asst. Poll Managers and \$120.00 for the poll Clerks). Councilman Cox made a motion to approve the recommendations, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Departmental Reports for September 2019.

- Councilman Douglas commented on the increase in letters for nuisance and abatement since the new building inspector started.

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- Councilman Cox stated that water loss was up in the last couple of months based on last year by about 29%. City Manager Addleton stated that the last five months average was 21.8%. Councilman Cox stated that it was just something he felt we needed to be aware of.

2.) Reports from City Manager:

- GMA City's United Summit – Jan. 24 – 27
- Fall Concert – Oct. 18 at 7:00 pm
- Preconstruction Meeting with Scruggs on the Street Resurfacing Project October 22

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Byrden requested an update on Southern Terrace Park. City Manager Addleton stated that he and Marketing Director Alyssa Blakely were currently working on a DNR grant that would include a walking trail.
- Councilman Byrden also asked when the sidewalks down S. Broad St would be repaired with City Manager Addleton responding that he was hopeful that we would be able to repair them with SPLOST money in the future.
- Councilman Douglas advised the council that he has had citizens visit his office stating that candidates running for election were putting campaign signs on their private property. He informed the citizens that the city could not come on private property and remove them, but the property owners could do what they wanted to with the signs themselves.
- Councilman Douglas asked what could be done about mobile home inspections. He stated that he was concerned about mobile homes sitting for long periods at a time with no inspections being completed. Councilman Byrden asked City Manager Addleton what we could do to make this happen. Attorney Tom Lehman stated that we could have mobile homes of a certain age inspected every couple of years, but you did not need to do it more often than that because that would put more of a burden on the code enforcement department. Councilman Douglas asked if Attorney Lehman would put something together and bring it back to the council.
- Councilman Cox stated that there is a utility pole at 14th Ave NW and 15th ST NW that has a support cable that needs tightening.
- Councilman Cox said he was informed that when turning right off of 11th Ave NW on to US Hwy 84 E there are no school zone signs.
- Councilman Cox stated that drivers are still turning down 10th Ave NW, a one-way street.
- Councilman Cox wanted to make sure that the Airbnb discussion was still on the table. He stated that he felt like this was a good opportunity for the city and would like to see us take advantage of it.
- Mayor Gainor stated that he would love to see everyone at the Drug Free Grady Rally at Family Worship Center October 21. Also, there is a Community Access and Empowerment conference October 24 at 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:48 p.m., motion to enter into executive session was made by Councilman Byrden for the reason indicated below, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved unanimously by all Council Members:

To discuss hiring, appointing, compensating, disciplining, or dismissing an employee; (O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b) (2)).

At 6:56 p.m., motion to close the executive session was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present. There was no action taken as a result of the session.

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

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APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR

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