

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 12, 2018

The March 12, 2018 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 Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, and Energy Services Director Rod Prince. Also in attendance was Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind. Councilman Demario J. Byrden and Times Enterprise Reporter Jordan Barela joined the meeting shortly after 6:00 p.m. during the Brannon presentation.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1.) Regular Meeting – February 26, 2018. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

2.) Budget Workshop Meeting – February 26, 2018. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

1.) Kerry Dinkins and Jennifer Woodward – First Baptist Church – Street Closure Request. After review, motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Mr. Dinkins and Mrs. Woodward joined the meeting after the item was considered and stated that they wished to be able to block 6th Ave., NW from Broad Street up to 1st St., NW on all Sunday afternoons from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. from August to May. This was next to where the Children’s Ministry activities were held on Sunday nights, and they were concerned with safety issues with them being so close to the street.

2.) Mr. John Brannon. Mr. Brannon addressed the Mayor and Council advising that the Grady County Commission was not wanting to build the pool for which SPLOST funding had been approved by the voters. He added that they now want to consider it infeasible due to the definition of “infeasible” having changed since the referendum was approved. He did not believe they could now make that decision based on the new definition. He believed it was a matter of credibility if the pool was not built and would hurt the City also. He stated that he had a ten-year history of the project and a booklet that promoted plans for the aquatic center which was to be a competitive pool located at Barber Park. He referred to this as a last effort short of filing a lawsuit against the county. He requested that the City take a stand to have the county do the right thing. He added that the ballot language was written vaguely, but he had ads and nine pictures of the proposed \$900,000 aquatic center that had been proposed. Noting that the City spent its portion of the tax proceeds properly, he advised that there had been nothing allocated by the County from SPLOST for an administrative building at the Recreation Dept. or for the lake project. Councilman Douglas stated that he was in agreement with most of what was said but did not know how the City could help; and if the County Commission declared the project to be infeasible, it had to go back on the ballot. Adding that the City should get all its money back (39% of \$900,000) plus interest if the project was found infeasible, his personal opinion was that voters had voted on a pool, and the County was supposed to build a pool. Councilman Cox agreed that if the funding was in the referendum, it had to be used for that. He referred the matter to City Attorney Lehman, asking that if the funds were not used for the pool, did the money have

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to be returned to the taxpayers in some way. He agreed that if this matter was still hanging, there would be little chance of another SPLOST passing. Atty. Lehman reiterated that what Mr. Brannon was saying was that there would probably be a credibility issue. In closing, Mr. Brannon posed the question of whether the definition of infeasibility at the time when voting occurred should be used, or as it was currently defined.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.) Special Event Permit for Grady County Relay for Life, Davis Park on April 14, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Jackie Pearson, Applicant. After review, motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2.) Special Event Permit for Street Closure for Family Gathering, 3rd St., SW from 3rd Ave., SW to Ridge Avenue on April 7, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Jaram Queen, Applicant. After review, motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Purchase of Bucket Truck for Electric Dept. Energy Services Director Prince had recommended purchasing an Altec AT-40-G mounted on a 2017 Dodge 5500 for \$107,797.00 and funding it from the Short-Term MEAG Municipal Competitive Trust. He had spoken with directors from other departments who used this same truck and were pleased with it. After discussion, motion to approve the purchase as recommended was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

New Alcoholic Beverage Application – Claudia E Oseguera dba Casa Grande Bar and Grill – Beer, Wine, and Liquor - Retail Consumption on Premises at 2800 U.S. Hwy. 84 East - Claudia Oseguera, Applicant. After discussion, motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Departmental Reports for the Month of February 2018. Council reviewed the reports, with Councilman Cox asking what was done when false alarm calls became excessive. City Manager Addleton advised that the Police Chief addressed the matter. Councilman Douglas referred to the report showing water pumped versus water sold, with Director Prince advising that, with the remote readings on the AMI system, last month's rechecks were seven as compared to 200 truck rolls before the system was installed.

2.) Financial Report for the Month of January 2018. After review, motion to approve the report was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

3.) Reports from City Manager:

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- Advised that the Landfill was running out of dirt used to cover garbage and trash. Requested Chris Taylor to be at next meeting to discuss costs for garbage and trash pickup and disposal.
- City Manager Addleton and Chief Sandefur had met with Greg Smith of Buckley & Associates regarding preliminary building plans for the Police Dept.
- Bid Opening scheduled for CDBG on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. – 15th Street Project.
- Introduced Julian Brown, new JDA Director.

4.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Mayor Gainor asked if the Landfill could still be used as a transfer station for the City, with City Manager Addleton responding that it would require other entities also using it to have enough volume to be feasible; but, the City didn't want to get back into the garbage business. He added that roll-outs could be put out for use by citizens and then be dumped by Taylor, and C&D would still be accepted.
- Councilman Douglas reported that shrubs at Greenwood and Crestview Cemeteries were blocking site coming out of the cemeteries onto 20th St., NE.
- Councilman Thornton asked if the apartments behind Zaxby's had been completed because it looked like people had moved in. City Manager Addleton reported that the road had been paved and inspected, but he did not think that a certificate of occupancy had been issued since the road had not yet been striped.
- Councilman Gwaltney reported a complaint from a member of the Women's Club that she had to clean the gazebo after the weekend, and that the Club was supposed to get the \$25 fee for its use. Also, some fence panels were down in the park, with City Manager Addleton advising that there had been a problem with them being taken down before, but thought putting up a gate had resolved that. He would ask that screws be used when they were put back up.
- Councilman Cox reported potholes off Hwy. 84 on Crine Blvd. He added that he had ridden out on 20th St., and the junkyard was disgusting. City Manager Addleton reported that he had talked with Mr. Hammett who expressed his plans to move 18 semi-loads out and would let him know when it was to be done.
- Mayor Gainor invited everyone to participate in supporting a fundraiser by eating at the sponsoring restaurants in Cairo and Thomasville on Wednesday.

5.) Executive Session:

At 6:50 p.m., Councilman Gwaltney made motion to go 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)). Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Present in the session were the Mayor and Council Members, City Attorney, City Manager, and City Clerk.

At 7:15 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Douglas to end the session, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

There was no action taken as a result of the session.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK