

REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JUNE 19, 2018

The June 19, 2018 Regular and Special Called Meetings, held jointly, were 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 Reporter Meshia Wind and Times Enterprise Reporter Jordan Barela.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

PUBLIC HEARING – Citizen Input on Resolution Proposed by the Grady County Board of Commissioners to Amend the 2008 Special Purpose Local Option Tax (SPLOST) Intergovernmental Agreement between Grady County and the City of Cairo for the Use and Distribution of SPLOST Proceeds. The Hearing was held with seven people expressing their feelings regarding whether the County should build an aquatic center with the SPLOST proceeds. **1.)** Mrs. Cindy Johnson, 123 Braswell Circle, Cairo, stated that voters had voted on the matter, it had passed, and it should be built. **2.)** Mr. Arlie Fisher, 702 N. Broad Street, Cairo, stated that he was disturbed that the board did not do what was voted on, expressing that his grandson had to travel to Americus in order to swim. **3.)** Ms. Betty Ragan, 1205 Ben Hill Ave., SE, Cairo, stated that both she and her daughter had learned to swim at Davis Park. She had taken swim lessons through a PE class at school, and her daughter had been on the swim team at Davis Park. She liked the fact that swimming was not a contact sport, and felt the pool should be built. **4.)** Grady County School Supt., Dr. Kermit Gilliard, stated that he had a proposal that could solve the issue. He advised that the School Board originally had not had any interest in a pool, but would be interested in contributing to the pool project if it was built on the CHS campus, adding that there was space available where the alternative school was currently located. There, the pool could be used by students and open to the public when school was not in session. He said that other school systems in Georgia had implemented programs that included teaching all 4-year old students to swim, swim teams practices, and the community could purchase annual memberships to have access to the pool when school was not in session. He had talked with a school official from Gordon County who had conveyed that their swim team of five members had grown to an award-winning team of 120 within three years of building a pool. In closing, he proposed that the three entities work together to make it possible to have a year-round pool attached to the CHS gym and work out an agreement for operations. **5.)** Mr. Timothy Gurley, 504 Culpepper Dr., SE, Cairo, expressed that he thought Dr. Gilliard's idea was great for the community. He asked the Mayor and Council to go back and look at the reasons for the pool before a decision was made. **6.)** Ms. Louise McRae, 719 1st St., SW, Cairo, stated her opposition for building the pool due to taxes and the \$30 million debt owed by the County. She added that it was not just the building of an aquatic center but the upkeep of it. She added that other things were needed such as sidewalk repair and drainage issues resolved. She noted that when citizens do updates to their homes, they have to get permits; and then the taxes go up. She wanted to see the pool monies go toward that, adding that seniors have a hard time, and some never had children but had to pay school taxes. **7.)** Mr. Joe Johnson, 123 Braswell Circle, Cairo, stated that he was a retired school teacher and had helped with the swim team at Davis Park before it was closed, with many kids benefitting from swimming. He added that the SPLOST had been a fairly solid agreement for the County to replace the pool at Davis Park. In closing he stated that Cairo was a "can do" town and needed to put the aquatic center either at Barber Park or at the high school.

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After the public hearing, Councilman Douglas asked if he could speak in order to clarify the misconception that the City was the hold-up in building the pool. He noted that the City had put in its percentage of monies, and the County was in charge of recreation but had chosen not to follow through with building an aquatic center. The public hearing had not been a requirement, but the Council wanted to hear from the citizens before they responded to the County's proposal to declare the project infeasible. Attorney Lehman added that if the County approved an infeasibility resolution, the City would have to do the same before the question could be put on a ballot for the public to vote on the matter, adding that the money collected for the project was still sitting at the County.

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

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

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of Budget Ordinance for FY 2018-2019. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adopt the ordinance for the FY 2018-2019 budget in the amount of \$43,912,323 at the department level. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Adoption of Annexation Ordinance for County Tax Map C36, Parcel 10 and a Portion of Parcel 12 located on GA. Highway 188; Applicants/Owners: Thomas K. Leggett, Jr. and David L. Dumas. (23.25 acres – Tucker Development Group LLC to develop a sixty (60) unit low/moderate income housing complex). Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Adoption of Ordinance to Set Initial Zoning to R-PUD (Residential Planned Unit Development) District, located adjacent to the present city limits on GA. Highway 188; identified as County Tax Map C36, Parcel 10 and a portion of Parcel 12 located on GA. Highway 188; Applicants/Owners: Thomas K. Leggett, Jr. and David L. Dumas. (23.25 acres – Tucker Development Group LLC to develop a sixty (60) unit low/moderate income housing complex). Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Adoption of Ordinance to Rezone from R-1 & R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-PUD (Residential Planned Unit Development District), located on 12th Ave., NE; identified as County Tax Map C36, Parcels 10.1 and 12.1 (both lots adjoining those tracts considered for annexation and zoning in above action). Motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Adoption of Ordinance to Rezone from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) at the location of 329 4th St., NW; identified on County Tax Map C13, Parcel 75. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Financial Report for the Month of April 2018. Councilman Douglas reported that everything was close on budget in most areas. Finance Director Miriam Faircloth was to add some additional information on pages 22 and 23 of the report. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

2.) Reports from City Manager:

- Striping of nine miles of streets was currently being done by DOT with an LMIG Safety Grant (\$30,000).

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Byrden announced that a July 4th event was being planned which would be held at Cairo High School prior to the fireworks show and was to include a band to entertain, along with activities planned for the whole family.
- Councilman Cox thanked Councilman Douglas for speaking about the process for the building of a pool, and the Council's involvement. He also stated that he liked the sample color-coded utility bill that he had seen.
- Councilman Douglas reported on the trash collection held on Wednesday of last week, with participation by City employees, and wanted to personally thank Director Celeste Tyler for organizing the event. Consideration was being given to scheduling such an event quarterly with the public invited to participate.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Cox to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR