

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 13, 2018

The August 13, 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 Demario J. Byrden, Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members present were City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, and Energy Services Director Rod Prince. City Manager Chris Addleton was out of town. Also in attendance was Cairo Messenger Reporter Mesha Wind and Times Enterprise Editor Pat Donahue.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Gainor.

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 Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.) Take Back Our Grady EMC Demonstration, September through October 2018 - 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Gordon Clyatt, Applicant. Mr. Clyatt had numbered the participants at 20, but explained that he did not know the exact number but believed it would be a very small number. It was noted that the area was not large where the demonstrations would take place. EMC Attorney Claire Chason was present, stating that while her client does feel that everybody has a right to be heard, there was a safety concern since the sidewalk where the demonstrators would be included the driveway entrance to the building. She also requested that the police be present during the demonstrations. Mr. Clyatt agreed to notify Police Chief Sandefur in advance of the times for demonstrations. After discussion, motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

2.) Grady County Baptist Association WMU Prayer Walk, September 7, 2018 from 12:00 Noon – 12:30 p.m. - Courthouse parking lot and east side of Broad Street. Ms. Judy Dixon and Ms. Alice McCorkle were present and noted that this would be the WMU's second prayer walk. Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Setting 2018 Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate. Council reviewed the tax digest figures, computation of the rollback rate (7.700 mills), the five-year history, and options presented for setting the 2018 millage rate. Councilman Cox commented that the net rate of 7.70 mills had been recommended by staff, and would be short of the budgeted amount; but could be handled with proper management. The rollback rate would not result in an increase and was expected to generate \$1,425,242.20 in tax, a shortfall of \$172,757.80. Councilman Douglas

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commented that revenue would have to be looked at and something cut back if necessary. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to set the proposed millage rate at 7.70 mills and advertise the five-year history. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cox and unanimously approved by all Council Members. (Final millage rate to be set at the August 27th meeting).

Purchase of Electric Department Bucket Truck. The truck would replace one that was 28 years old with 109,698 city miles and had far exceeded its expected life of 15 years. Director Prince recommended the purchase of the Altec AA-60-E boom and bucket for \$136,737 mounted on a 2018 Peterbilt truck in the amount of \$92,980, for a total of \$229,717. \$240,000 had been budgeted in the FY 2019 budget to be funded by the MEAG Municipal Competitive Trust. He advised that the lead time for the unit would be 10 months, so it would need to be ordered soon to be able to take delivery in the current fiscal year. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the purchase and seconded by Councilman Byrden. Council Members discussed, with Councilman Cox asking if bids had been received, with Director Prince responding that the items proposed were the best quality and were under budget. Councilman Cox stated that he would be more comfortable making a decision with competitive bids, as it was a lot of money not to have bids. He added that, in the future, bids should be acquired or at least an explanation why they were not obtained. Mayor Gainor inquired if obtaining additional bids would require advertising which would create a delay. Councilman Gwaltney asked if it was too late to obtain bids, with Director Prince responding that he might could go back and piggy-back on Crisp County’s bid. Council Members discussed whether to approve the purchase or to wait for Director Prince to explore the piggy-backing, with Councilman Thornton deciding to leave his motion in place. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Thornton, Gwaltney, Douglas, and Byrden. Councilman Cox voted against the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

- 1.) **Consider Departmental Reports for the Month of July 2018.** The reports were reviewed.
 - 2.) **Reports from City Manager:** None
 - 3.) **Reports from Mayor and Council:** None
- Councilman Cox confirmed that he supported the purchase of the Electric Department truck but would have just liked to have more information.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK