

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JANUARY 11, 2016

Attorney Thomas L. Lehman conducted the swearing-in ceremony at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street for the newly-elected Councilman Jerry L. Cox representing District 5, and incumbent Councilmen Lannis Thornton representing District No. 1, and Robert L. Gwaltney representing District No. 3.

The January 11, 2016 Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr., who welcomed Councilman Cox to the Council. Present were Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Douglas.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM: After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to appoint Councilman Douglas as Mayor Pro Tem for 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Council Meeting – December 14, 2015. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Special Event Permit for MLK Sports Bash –Youth Field Day Events, January 18, 2016 at Southern Terrace Park from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Alexander Brown - Applicant. Council discussed and had questions regarding whether police officer assistance would be needed and also noted the duplication of MLK day activities held simultaneously at Holder Park; however, the applicant was not present to address these concerns. Police officers would not be able to cover both events. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas and seconded by Councilman Cox to approve the event. After further discussion, the motion for approval failed with Councilman Douglas voting in favor and Council Members Thornton, Gwaltney, Cox, and Cloud voting against.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance Amendment for Changes to City Charter. Attorney Lehman had prepared proposed changes in four sections of the Charter to update or correct as follows: **1.) Section 3.11 Meetings.** To change the amount of notice to be given in advance of special meetings of the Mayor and Council from 48 hours to 24 hours to be consistent with State law. **2.) Section 6.11 Millage.** This change is to correct erroneous or misplaced wording that was placed in the current Charter. **3.) Section 6.14 Franchises.** This change is to correct erroneous or misplaced wording that was placed in the current Charter. **4.) Section 5.13 Powers.** A change in the powers of the Cairo Municipal Court relating to punishment for municipal ordinance violations section to change the maximum imprisonment from “60” days to “6 months” as allowed by State law. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered at a future meeting for adoption.

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Introduction of Ordinance Regarding “Tiny Houses”. Council reviewed and discussed the proposed ordinance, asking that the minimum size of a refrigerator be eliminated and that a floor plan, rather than an elevation plan, be required showing a location for a refrigerator and stove/oven. A site plan would also be necessary showing placement of the structure on the lot. Based on the proposed ordinance, tiny houses would only be allowed on a 7500 square foot lot in an R-1 zoning classification, and the structure would be required to have 150 minimum square feet for each permanent resident. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next meeting. As the moratorium previously placed on permitting tiny houses was to expire on January 31st, Councilman Douglas made motion to extend the moratorium until February 28th. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

CSX Surface Upgrade and Track Work (Concrete Crossing) at 4th Street, NW/SW. City Manager Addleton advised that CSX had issued a Preliminary Engineering Agreement for administrative engineering services associated with the upgrade with an estimated cost of \$5,500 for the design work. The preliminary estimate for the actual crossing construction upgrade was \$45,000. He had contacted the City of Thomasville, and the cost was close to what they had been paying to improve their railroad crossings. Councilman Douglas advised that the City of Camilla had used asphalt at a cost of around \$10,000. Council discussed and requested City Manager Addleton to ask for a quote for asphalt instead of concrete. It was suggested that the paving on that street be completed prior to the crossing upgrade.

Appointment of Voting Delegate for GMA Special Membership Meeting in Atlanta on January 24th. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to appoint City Manager Addleton as voting delegate, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Motion was also made by Councilman Gwaltney to appoint Councilman Douglas as proxy, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Alcoholic Beverage Application, Change of Ownership – Joao Mathias Soares, Applicant, dba Cairo Travel Center - Beer, Retail Package – 328 US 84 E. After review, motion was made Councilman Thornton to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Cancellation or Rescheduling of January 25, 2016 Council Meeting Due to Conflict with GMA Mayor’s Day Conference. After discussion, motion to cancel the meeting, unless needed, was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Reports:

1.) Departmental Reports for the Month of December 2015. Councilman Douglas called attention to the increase in water loss, and to the Building Dept. report that showed that no nuisance/abatement letters had been sent during December. Councilman Cox expressed his concern in having observed people texting and driving and hoped that the law against that could be better enforced.

2.) Finance Report for the Month of October 2015. Councilman Douglas conveyed that the report was in order, noting that an extension has been requested for the year-end audit report. He also commented that over \$1,034,803 in taxes had been received through January 8th. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

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3.) City Manager Addleton’s Report:

- Scruggs Co. had paved MLK and would be starting on 4th St., NW next.
- Airport water plant pre-construction conference was held earlier in the day with GEFA and the contractor, Bates Engineers.
- MacIvor water plant samples for 3rd & 4th Quarter showed higher than accepted levels of arsenic, so another public notice would be mailed out. Corrective action would continue with the construction of the new Airport plant.
- Fire truck to be available for the MLK parade.

4.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Douglas suggested that the rehab process and the addition of an arsenic removal system at the MacIvor water plant start as soon as the Airport plant was online.
- Councilman Gwaltney asked questions about the detour for the Hwy. 112 bridge project (Hwy 93N), noting his concern that 17th Ave., NW, on which large trucks were not allowed, would become an access route for semis between Highway 84 West and Hwy. 93.
- Councilman Thornton reported a deep drain in the street in front of the Cultural Center.
- Councilman Thornton reported a broken curb at N. Broad & 4th Ave., NW, and learned that Cook Bros. was scheduled to do the repair.
- Councilman Cloud asked about the garbage trucks needing repairs, with City Manager Addleton advising that Director Mitchell would have quotes at the next meeting.
- Councilman Cloud asked about the status of demolition of the Greene house on MLK and learned that the required legal ad was being published in the newspaper this month, after which the demolition could begin.
- Councilman Cloud asked if stripes could be painted on across S. Broad onto 2nd Ave., SE and learned that it would be part of the streetscape project.
- Councilman Douglas asked what the status of repair was where DOT cones were located on Hwy. 84.
- Councilman Douglas requested that the dirt along the curb on 8th Ave., NE in front of the auto dealer be removed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK