

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR AND COUNCIL – JANUARY 13, 2014

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Attorney 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 Mayor, Robert B. Burns, Sr. and re-elected Councilmen Ernest W. Cloud, Jr. representing District No. 2, and James H. Douglas representing District No. 4.

The January 13, 2014 Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. Present were Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Fire Chief Jim Fielding, and Energy Services Director Rod Prince. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Burns.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM: After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to appoint Councilman Thornton as Mayor Pro Tem for 2014. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – December 9, 2013. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Special Event Permit for Southside Elementary School – Lateesha Clinton Memorial 5K Run to be held on February 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. - Janet Walden/April Lee, Applicants. Ms. Walden briefed the Council on the route and activities planned for the event. After review, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the event and was seconded by Councilman Cloud. Motion passed with Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor of the motion and Councilman Gilliard abstaining due to his affiliation with the Board of Education.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing: Rezoning Request to Rezone from R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential District) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) - 1287 Holder Avenue, SW - Tax Map C7, Parcel 73 - Timothy Donaldson, Applicant. Mr. Donaldson was present and explained that he had a mobile car wash business, but wished to be able to conduct that business at 1287 Holder Ave., SW which was located behind other commercially-zoned property. There was no one present who objected to the rezoning. After comments, the public hearing was closed.

Rezoning Request from R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential District) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) - 1287 Holder Avenue, SW –Tax Map C7, Parcel 73 - Timothy Donaldson, Applicant. Both the SWGRC and the Cairo Planning Commission had recommended approval of the rezoning. With regard to questions about traffic and parking, Mr. Donaldson responded that there

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would be very little traffic and all parking would be on the property. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the rezoning, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20 Entitled “Traffic” of the Code of Ordinances, City of Cairo, Georgia. (To provide for a penalty for violation of any traffic ordinance). After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. City Manager Addleton advised that he would be sending a courtesy letter to local businesses regarding deliveries and enforcement of the truck route ordinance and would also have signs erected designating the truck route.

City ISO Rating - Fire Chief Jim Fielding. Chief Fielding reported that his department had started preparation over a year ago to lower the City’s ISO rating, adding that, after a lot of hard work, they had been successful in getting the rating lowered from an ISO 4 to an ISO 3 which would impact insurance premiums. He stated that he had been surprised to learn recently that the credit history of an insured had more impact on the cost of premiums than the ISO rating. He noted that the lowest credit earned was for the number of personnel, but did not feel that adding employees would be beneficial to the rating. He added that there would be basically no premium savings to homeowners if the rating was a 1 or 2, and the costs to achieve that would be massive. In closing he added that a Class 3 rating should help in attracting industry to Cairo.

Audit Report FY 2012-13. Councilman Douglas informed the Council that some changes were being made to the report, and it would be considered at the next meeting.

2014 Municipal Competitive Trust Voluntary Deposits. City Manager Addleton and Energy Services Director Prince had recommended depositing funds (\$134,421 per month) into the Flexible Operating Account, Short Term Portfolio for 2014. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the election as recommended, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. (The evergreen election for excess energy sold on the open market and credited to the power bill from MEAG did not change).

MEAG Easements for Five Parcels Needed to Install a Transmission Line to Connect Cairo’s Downtown Electrical Substation to the Brumbley Creek Substation (\$6,712 compensation). After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the easements, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Attorney Lehman inquired as to the location of poles, with City Manager Addleton advising that Energy Services Director Prince would be overseeing that. Director Prince added that moving the pole at the intersection of 4th St. and 4th Ave., NW was being considered.

Appointment of Mayor Bobby Burns to South Georgia Governmental Services (SGGSA) Board. Motion was made by Councilman Cloud to appoint Mayor Burns, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Rescheduling January 27, 2014 Council Meeting to Thursday, January 30, 2014 due to Conflict with GMA Mayor’s Day Conference. After review, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the rescheduling, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Proposed Electric Rate Schedules. City Manager Addleton presented information on Cairo’s Energy Fuel Portfolio, electric costs, environmental compliance costs, 5-year projected billing amounts, and

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recommendations for compliance cost recovery. He noted that the most significant factor increasing costs was the environmental regulations imposed by EPA. Another factor contributing to the rising price of wholesale electricity was the increase in fuel prices, with the cost of coal nearly doubling over the past 10 years. The good news was that MEAG Power was the lowest-priced wholesaler of electricity in Georgia. He added that the City had been absorbing some of these rising costs, but it could not continue to do so. It was being recommended that the Environmental Compliancy Cost Recovery (ECCR) be broken out on utility bills at 1.2 cents/KWH and implemented in two phases: **1.)** January 2014 @ 0.6 cents/KWH, and **2.)** January 2015 @ 0.6 cents/KWH. Also recommended was to adopt proposed revised electric rate schedules in two phases: **1.)** January 2014 and January 2015. The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) would return to zero, subject to increase or decrease on future power costs. While trying to remain revenue neutral, 142 new demand accounts would be created and tested to achieve better parity in all account classes and to avoid losing money on some classes. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the recommendations as presented, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1. Finance Report for the Month of November 2013. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report that had been reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

2.) City Manager:

- Announced that MEAG representative John Giles had been promoted to President/CEO of Electric Cities of Georgia.
- Presented one of the informational magnets that were to be sent out to utility customers in their billings.
- Reported on a meeting that he and Director Prince had attended in Albany the previous week.
- Announced that he would be attending a meeting of City Managers in Camilla the following day.
- The annual SGGSA meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on February 27th at the Country Club in Cairo.

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

There were no reports from Council Members, but Attorney Lehman gave a report on the history of the City and the varying roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council. He also advised that he was working on incorporating suggestions from the Cairo Planning Commission into the proposed sign ordinance and would present it at the January 30th meeting.

Mayor Burns congratulated Councilman Thornton on his election as Mayor Pro Tem and also expressed his appreciation for the encouragement and support he had received in his election for Mayor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

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APPROVED:

ROBERTS B. BURNS, SR.
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK