

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JANUARY 27, 2011

The January 27, 2011 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street, with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Robert L. Gwaltney was unable to attend the meeting. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee. Cairo Messenger Reporter Darrell Mudra was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Thornton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Workshop Meeting – January 10, 2011: Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and approved by all Council Members present. **Regular Meeting – January 10, 2011:** Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Application for a Boarding House at 329 4th St., NW (Tax Map C13, Parcel 75) - C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District – Roosevelt Isaac, Applicant. Mr. Isaac was present at the meeting. There were no public comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Conditional Use Application for a Boarding House at 329 4th St., NW (Tax Map C13, Parcel 75) - C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District – Roosevelt Isaac, Applicant. (Both the Cairo Planning Commission and the SOWEGA Regional Commission had recommended approval of the conditional use permit). After review, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the conditional use permit. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

Cairo-Grady County Airport Committee Creation and Adoption of By-Laws. City Manager Addleton reported that a few typos in the by-laws would have to be corrected and some revisions were recommended as follows: Section 4.2 - All five appointments would be made at large by the Mayor and Council. Section 4.4 – Compensation for actual member expenses would have to be pre-approved by the City Manager. Section 5.1 – Remove last sentence from second paragraph (remove term limits). Mayor VanLandingham questioned wording in the vision statement regarding “Cairo, Grady County, and Southwest Georgia.” Councilman Douglas asked about the process for member appointment with City Manager Addleton stating that he would prepare a slate of appointees. He was requested to include address, occupation, and relationship to the airport in order to get a good cross-section of users. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the creation of the Airport Committee and adoption of the By-Laws with the changes proposed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

Employee Personnel Policy Changes – 10.03 Sick Leave, 10.08 Leave Sharing, and 11.03 Salary Continuation. City Manager Addleton reported that he, Mayor VanLandingham, and Human Resources Director Meades had met regarding proposed changes to three sections of the policy: 1.)

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With regard to sick leave (10.03), add “sister”, “brother”, and “grandchild” in the definition of “immediate” family.” 2.) To add “grandchild” to the definition of “immediate” family in the leave sharing policy (10.08). 3.) To change the workers comp salary continuation policy by deleting 11.03 and replacing it with a new section. It would eliminate the accrual of leave paid in addition to that paid by worker’s comp. Action on the amendments was postponed until some wording changes could be made and more information could be gathered as to the benefits provided by other cities. Motion to postpone was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

Appointments to the Cairo Planning Commission to Fill Vacancies of Members not Seeking Re-Appointment (terms to expire December 31, 2015). City Manager Addleton advised that staff had recommended appointing Mr. Larry Brown of 30 15th St., SW and Mr. Larry Simmons of 355 Crescent Circle to replace Mr. Doug Addison and Mr. Waymon Williams who did not wish to be re-appointed. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the appointments as recommended, seconded by Councilman Thornton and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

Gas Superintendent Position for City of Cairo Gas Department. City Manager Addleton advised that staff was recommending an organizational change in the Gas Department which would eliminate two currently vacant positions and add a gas superintendent position. There would be no increase in the budget. He presented an organizational chart, gas department staff comparison of several cities, proposed pay scale, and position description. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the changes and hiring of a superintendent. Councilman Douglas seconded the motion while noting that the City needed the position but also needed to offer incentives to gas customers to promote the gas system. City Manager Addleton stated that he had been looking for an interim to fill the position until someone could be hired. The motion passed with all Council Members present voting unanimously in favor. Motion was also made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Douglas to approve the hiring of an interim superintendent if one could be found. Councilman Cloud stated that he had unreadiness and asked if that interim person would become permanent. Council Members Thornton and Douglas clarified the motion by stating that the interim would be on a temporary basis and could possibly even be contractual. Motion passed with Council Members Douglas, Gilliard, and Thornton voting in favor and Councilman Cloud opposing.

Finance Report for Month of November 2010. Councilman Douglas stated that the reports were in line with the budget. Some revisions were to be made in the 2009 figures used for comparison. Mayor VanLandingham noted that the Council would like to meet with Finance Director Faircloth on a quarterly basis for highlights and questions. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve both the November and December reports, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

Finance Report for the Month of December 2010. (See item above).

Annual Financial Report for the FY ended June 30, 2010. Councilman Douglas stated that the report had been reviewed and had been sent to the State Department of Audits. He noted that there was some clarification needed on some of the schedules that had no real impact on the report. He made motion to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Manager’s Report:

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- 1.) DOT approved two streets from the priority list for resurfacing (.87 miles): 13th St., SW from M. L. King to Highway 111 South; and 3rd St., NE from Hwy 84 to 1st Ave., NE – Contracts were to be issued by March 18th and completed by end of year: Councilman Cloud requested that cuts for the water tank project be made prior to the paving of 13th St., or that resurfacing be done after tank work was completed.
- 2.) The Davis Park storm water proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
- 3.) Reminded Members of the Annual Chamber Meeting to be held on Monday, Jan. 31st.

Other Reports: None

Reports from Mayor & Council:

Councilman Thornton asked if the street cuts that were made on Clay Ave. would be paved, with City Manager Addleton to check to see which phase of the 3-Phase Master Plan included Clay Ave., SW.

Councilman Douglas reported on the GMA Board of Directors meeting held the previous weekend:

- 1.) A Christmas tree will be given away at the convention in Savannah in June, and each city has been asked to donate a Christmas ornament for it.
- 2.) Proceeds from the Mayor's Motorcade Golf Tournament, etc. went to the State hospitals in Georgia in the amount of \$18.60 per bed, for a total of over \$40,000 to be used for needs of the patients.
- 3.) Mrs. Obama has started a program to fight childhood obesity making grants available for walking trails, sidewalks near schools, etc., and GMA will be promoting the program.
City Manager Addleton was asked to check on needs for which grants may be available.

Mayor VanLandingham requested that valet parking be included in paid travel expenses in places like Atlanta where parking was not freely available, with motion to approve being made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

He had also discussed with the Historical Society the decoration in the front window on the Chamber side of the building and suggested that, if the Society was not going to keep something there on a regular basis, the City should provide the decoration which was agreed upon by Council Members.

Executive Session: None

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK**