

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JANUARY 29, 2009

The January 29, 2009 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Council Members 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 B. Lee, Exec. Asst. Donna Young, and Finance Director Miriam Faircloth. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Rev. Johnny Moore.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 12, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENT:

Bright K. Ayrakwa – Request for use of the City’s vacant lot on 4th Street, SW next to Myles Laundry Mat on February 26th thru 28th, 2009 for a Tent Crusade from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution for City Financial Transactions. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Transfer of Alcoholic Beverage Application (Retail Beer, Consumption on Premises) from Van Albert Powell to Kim Cobb Powell at 88 Market Street, NE. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the application. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

New Application for 2009 Alcoholic Beverage Application (Retail Beer and Wine, Package Only) for Sachin Patel dba Sam Food Mart at 716 U. S. Highway 84 East. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the application. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Final Site Plan with Revisions for Haven on Broad. City Manager Addleton advised that most of the revisions made since the preliminary plan was approved were due to cost reduction needs. The plan had been reviewed by Building Official Brian Hayes and Public Works Director Raymond Stokes. Rev. Johnny Moore was present and stated that he would like to break ground on the project in two weeks. He was asked why he would be replacing the asphalt overlay on existing pavement with seal coat. He explained that the seal coat would match the existing pavement. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the final site plan, seconded by Councilman Gilliard. Councilman Douglas asked why the revisions were not presented earlier, with Rev. Moore explaining that he was not aware that he would have to bring the final plan back for approval. Motion passed unanimously by all Council Members. City Manager Addleton asked Rev. Moore if he would

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consider adding back some of the items removed if the project came in under budget, with Rev Moore responding affirmatively.

Donation of Lot B17 in Bell Alley to Habitat for Humanity. City Manager Addleton reported that it had been learned that one of the two lots previously deeded to Habitat had easements across it. Habitat had requested to quit claim the lot back to the City in exchange for another lot. Attorney Lehman pointed out that the lot with easements might be suitable for a smaller house, with City Manager Addleton adding that he would follow up to see exactly where the easements were located. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the donation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Designation of Employee Floating Holiday for 2009. City Manager Addleton stated that he had chosen December 24th for the floater. Motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the date, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

REPORTS: None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Addleton reported that riprap had been added on the north and south sides of Buchanan Street, and quotes were to be obtained for the paving and guardrail. Councilman Cloud inquired about the banana tree in that area, with City Manager Addleton adding that the area would be cleaned and sod installed.

He reported that the ditch next to the Pitman property (Cairo Insurance) on 1st Ave., NE had been cleaned from 1st Ave. up to Davis Park.

He advised that the 4th Ave., SW stormwater project should begin next week with the material purchase. Councilman Cloud suggested that the 3rd and 4th Avenue project at the church be completed first, prior to the building of the apartments in that area. City Manager Addleton noted that the apartment complex would have holding pipes underground for stormwater, but he would consider priority for the two projects.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Thornton requested that trees that had fallen in the August storm be removed from the ditches on 4th and 6th Avenues, NW.

Councilman Douglas referred to the proposed property tax assessment cap (HR1) opposed by GMA. He had emailed three representatives and had gotten a response from one of those. He also referred to the non-funding of the Homeowners' Tax Credit and suggested that the County, School Board, and City make a joint effort to send a notice to taxpayers that they might be receiving an additional 2008 tax bill. City Clerk Lee reported that a notice to that effect had gone out with the original tax bills. Regarding proposed legislation proposals in general, it was suggested that GMA be supported in their stand on legislation with response to be made by City Manager Addleton; or that information received from GMA be forwarded to Council Members and Attorney Lehman along with email addresses of legislators so that each could respond individually.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor VanLandingham announced the need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (6)), with motion made at 6:35 p.m. by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members to enter into Executive Session. Present for the session were Mayor VanLandingham, Council Members Cloud, Douglas,

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Gwaltney, Gilliard, and Thornton; City Attorney Lehman; City Manager Addleton; and City Clerk Lee. At 7:15 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members to come out of Executive Session.

ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to offer an early retirement incentive to those employees who are at least 55 years of age and have 30 years of service, to receive 75% of the amount of their normal retirement benefit. The window of opportunity to make a decision to accept the offer would expire on February 28, 2009, with the legally required period of time following to make a retraction. The offer would not include any benefit for medical insurance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed with Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor. Councilman Gilliard opposed the motion.

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

APPROVED:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK