

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 8, 2010

The February 8, 2010 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 Lannis Thornton, Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., and Robert L. Gwaltney. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Douglas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – January 28, 2010. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Strategic Planning Meeting – January 28, 2010. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

1. Grady County Housing Task Force – Members Tony Ward and Peter Wright were present (Chairperson Mildred Clark could not attend) to update the Council on a housing survey that had been conducted in five areas of the City. Data from the survey was to be analyzed later by the group with help from some CHS students. The CHIP Program and the proposal of developing a community garden were also discussed.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1. Washington Alumni Reunion Request for Parade Permit and Program in Holder Park - August 7, 2010 – Parade starting at Washington Middle School at 10:30 a.m. and ending at Holder Park – Program ending at 2:00 p.m. (Two police vehicles requested). (Odell Jolly, Applicant). After review, motion to approve was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2. Request for Revival Permit and use of City Lot on 4th Street, SW next to Myles Laundry by Pastor Rogers R. Angelety, Jr., New Testament Church of Jesus Christ on April 26, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. After review, motion to approve was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Gilliard. Councilman Cloud asked that the group be reminded of the noise ordinance regulations, adding that in the past, there had also been problems with groups that had asked to run electricity from Myles Laundry. Also discussed was the liability issues which Attorney Lehman did not feel would be a likely problem. Motion was approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – City of Cairo Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Small Cities 2010 CDBG (\$500,000) Pre-Application Procedure. The public hearing was held with no public comments received. Public Hearing was closed.

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Resolution to Apply for 2010 CDBG Grant Funds from Georgia Department of Community Affairs. City Manager Addleton stated that the next proposal was to improve drainage in the Teresa Edwards/8th St., SW area. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the resolution to submit the application, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Appointment of Planning Commission Member. Mayor VanLandingham announced that the appointment would be discussed in Executive Session.

Comparison of Planning Commissions. Council reviewed the survey information presented and discussed payment and training for members. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to pay members \$20 for each meeting attended and to offer, but not require, training for them. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Modifications to Utility Billing Extension Policy. City Manager Addleton stated that the current policy did not allow an extension to city employees, elected officials, or appointed officials who received compensation from the City. The policy would affect Planning Commission Members now that they were to be paid for meeting attendance. There was also no provision for extensions to commercial customers. Council discussed these provisions and also the 7-day period for extensions. City Manager Addleton was asked to look back to see why these provisions were included in the current policy and bring back information for review. Motion was made by Councilman Cloud to allow City Manager Addleton to make decisions for commercial extensions until the policy could be re-considered, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Authorization to Apply for \$300,000 Community Home Investment (CHIP) Grant through Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to Develop or Preserve Housing. City Manager Addleton stated that he had discussed the program with Barbara Reddick of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and they would be administering any grant the City might receive. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to authorize application for the grant, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider Authorization to Apply for (\$500,000) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Authorization was given earlier in the meeting coinciding with approval of the Resolution.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Finance Report – December 2009. Report was approved upon motion by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

City Manager's Report:

1. Reported on the sewer odor problem in the SW section (Crescent Circle) and steps that had been taken to eliminate the problem. He presented pictures and stated that a manhole near the Harris residence had been sealed and a charcoal filter installed on another manhole to absorb odor. Councilman Cloud asked about rerouting the sewer line around Alan Parks' pond,

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as a directional bore would be more costly, with City Manager Addleton explaining that the Parks problem was a different issue that had more to do with I&I (inflow & infiltration). An engineering study would determine the best solution, and an attempt to combine three bores would be made to get a better price.

2. Presented research by Electric Cities of Ga. comparing weather temperatures with last year, as well as information regarding rebate incentives for appliance replacement beginning February 12th.

3. Announced that Planning Commission training was set for Feb. 11th & 18th at 6:00 p.m.

4. Spoke to Gallagher Bassett regarding the loss at Energy Services Dept., learning that it would more than likely be covered when the GBI investigation was completed, and would not be recouped through utility bills.

Reports from Mayor & Council:

Councilman Gwaltney reported on a complaint he had received of people parking in the “no parking” zone in front of post office and requested patrol of the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6.50 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Thornton to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a public officer (member to the Planning Commission), seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Present for the session were Mayor VanLandingham, Council Members Cloud, Douglas, Gwaltney, Gilliard, and Thornton; City Attorney Lehman; City Manager Addleton; and City Clerk Lee. After discussion, the session closed upon motion made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

There was no action taken as a result of the session. An appointment to the Planning Commission will be considered at the next meeting.

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

APPROVED:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK