

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 10, 2009

The February 10, 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 Councilman Cloud.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 29, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Minutes of the January 29, 2009 Budget Workshop Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENT:

Family Worship Center Missionette Extraordinary 5K/10K Run to be held on May 16, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (with the assistance of two officers requested). After review of the request and map of the run, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of District 10 Officers (Georgia Municipal Association) for 2009-2010. It was noted that Councilman Douglas would be moving up to the position of 1st Vice President. There was no interest expressed by the remaining Council Members in serving as a District 10 officer.

Finance Report for December 2008. Councilman Douglas reported that Finance Director Faircloth had found a minor change to be made in the Gas and Electric funds. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

- a.) **City of Cairo Code Enforcement – January 2009**
- b.) **Cairo Police Department December 2008**
- c.) **Overtime Report – January 2009**

City Manager Addleton advised that he would forward to Council Members a memo from Public Works Director Stokes regarding overtime.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Addleton reported that there were now 305 telephone subscribers. He noted that paving would begin the following week on Buchanan Street as well as 10th St. to 8th Ave., NW.

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Regarding the recent decision to offer an early retirement incentive (for employees who were at least 55 years of age and had 30 years of service, to receive 75% of the amount of their normal retirement benefit), City Manager Addleton reported that GMA would not be able to prepare the necessary documents for the time frame requested. They had indicated that it could be done by changing the election period to begin March 9, 2009 and expire April 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., with a revocation period of April 24, 2009 through April 30, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. and an effective retirement date of May 1, 2009. He asked for clarification on the credit for years of service to be given, as in past offerings credit was given for service to age 65. Councilman Douglas confirmed that his motion did not include any additional years of service, only those actually worked. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to change the election dates as recommended by City Manager Addleton and GMA. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed with Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor. Councilman Gilliard opposed the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Scott Higginbotham, representing the Downtown Development Authority, informed Council Members that the Authority had approved the Downtown Cairo Master Plan and requested adoption by the City in order for the Authority to apply for funding/grants. Attorney Lehman was asked if approval by the Council was necessary. He advised that it would be, as the City owned some of the property. Mr. Higginbotham added that the plan for Davis Park would work with the storm water plan to provide a walking area around a retention pond. City Manager Addleton noted that the future of Davis Park Pool would need to be decided. Also discussed was the taking over of Broad Street from the State to be able to make the proposed changes downtown. Mr. Higginbotham expressed his hope that the first phase of the development could start within two to three years and noted that revisions could be made throughout the various phases of the plan. Mayor VanLandingham requested that the Authority prepare a priority schedule as well as provide periodic updates to the Council. (Master Plan to be considered for approval at the next meeting).

Mr. Keith Baker was present and stated that he lived in a house owned by Mr. Billy Thomas at 10 5th Ave., SE. He was upset about the investigation by the City of a complaint received regarding a vehicle in his yard that did not have current insurance or a current tag. He stated that he was doing work on his house and had a problem with his trash being picked up, so he started putting it in the back of the truck in the front yard. He explained that he had health problems, did not work, and did not have the money to fix the truck. He reported that he had moved the truck to the back yard where it was out of sight of his neighbors. He stated that other places in town also needed attention. City Manager Addleton assured Mr. Baker that the City had not targeted him, but had received a complaint regarding the vehicle and always tried to work with people; but they had to be cooperative in return. Adding that this was the second time the City had tried to work with him, he reminded Mr. Baker that he had been extremely rude to the Code Enforcement officer. Mr. Baker stated that there were speeders in his neighborhood and asked for patrol of the area.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Cloud requested that a notice regarding the City's ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco in City-owned vehicles and buildings be put in employees' paychecks as well as posted in all City-owned buildings.

Mayor VanLandingham referred to the legislative process discussed at the last meeting, noting that he had sent some responses to legislators. Councilman Douglas referred to one update that had been sent that day regarding the MOST for water and sewer projects. Referring to the stimulus dollars, City Manager Addleton advised that he had sent information on projects. The

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 10, 2009

funding of the Homeowners' Tax Credit, as well as the impact of proposed property assessment caps, was also discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK