

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 14, 2011

The February 14, 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, 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, Human Resources Director Carolyn Meades, and Building Official Brian Hayes. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – January 27, 2011. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Grady County Habitat for Humanity – Request to Waive Permit Fees for Sixth House Being Built on Lot Number 17 on 1st St., NE. Mr. Bob Anderson, President of the organization, was present. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve waiving the permit fees, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Cairo-Grady County Airport Committee Nominees. City Manager Addleton had submitted the updated By-Laws of the recently-formed Airport Committee that were approved at the previous meeting. He presented a list of five nominees to the committee and their 3-year term expiration dates as follows: **1.)** James Jenkins (term ending December 31, 2011); **2.)** Denny Warren (term ending December 31, 2011); **3.)** Mike Ferros (term ending December 31, 2012); **4.)** Henry Brown (term ending December 31, 2012); and **5.)** Lawrence West (term ending December 31, 2013). After review, motion to approve the list of nominees was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Mayor VanLandingham requested an update from the committee at least twice a year.

Employee Policy Changes - Sick Leave (10.03), Leave Sharing (10.08), and Salary Continuation (11.03). Human Resources Director Meades presented follow-up information regarding some recommended changes to the personnel policy. It had been recommended to add family members “sister”, “brother”, and “grandchild” to the sick leave policy (10.03) and “grandchild” to the sick leave sharing policy (10.08). Also recommended was the elimination of Section 11.03 (Workers Comp) Salary Continuation from the policy. Council discussed the current sick leave sections relating to “sister-in-law” and “brother-in-law” which were included as immediate family members, but not “brother” and “sister”. Staff believed that it was due to a typo that they had not been included. Also discussed was the wording “primary caregiver”. It was decided to postpone action on Sections 10.03 Sick Leave and 10.08 Leave Sharing until the next meeting so that Director Meades could gather more information on policies of other cities. Action was taken to eliminate the Salary Continuation Section 11.03 that provided one week of full salary for every completed year of

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service to be used to compensate for the lost time during the first seven days that Worker's Compensation did not pay for lost time. The employee would still be allowed to charge the first seven days to his/her accrued vacation or sick leave. Should an employee be out more than 21 consecutive days due to an on-the-job injury, Worker's Comp. would go back and reimburse for those seven days. Motion to eliminate Section 11.03 Salary Continuation from the policy was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Resolution to Partner with the Georgia Department of Revenue in an Effort to Ensure Proper Payment of Sales Tax by Verifying that Businesses Paying Occupational Taxes were Submitting their Sales Tax. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Davis Park Stormwater Management Options. Council Members reviewed the various options that had previously been studied and discussed. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve Option No. 1 (dry pond - \$300,000). Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud. Mr. Howard Thrower was present and stated that he was in favor of correcting the water problem, but did not want to see any cosmetic work done with tax money. Mr. Robert Kral also spoke and felt that it was not necessary to remove any of the trees. He was informed that the options had been carefully studied and the flooding would have to be contained in the park. Option No. 1, which included a dry pond, would allow for less tree removal than with Option 0. After comments, motion passed with all Council Members voting in favor of Option No. 1.

Other Business: None

City Manager's Report:

- 1.) Foundation work for the elevated tank on 13th Street, SW had been started.
- 2.) \$14,330 had been received from the sale of surplus vehicles/equipment.
- 3.) The gas superintendent position had been advertised for two weeks resulting in the receipt of ten applications, with one more advertisement to follow.
- 4.) Reviewed lettering for the Gateway entrance sign.
- 5.) Announced that CHIP policies were to be considered at next meeting.
- 6.) Budget Workshop to be held after the next meeting.
- 7.) Gas liaison meeting had been scheduled for February 25th regarding gas safety, with all appropriate agencies invited to attend.

Reports:

Brian Hayes – Building Department – Nuisance Abatement Update on Condemned Structures. Official Hayes reported on the status of the 19 properties that had been condemned. He presented before and after pictures of some lots that had been cleared of abandoned, dilapidated structures. Four more were in the process of correction, two owners had received extensions, five had not claimed the notices sent to them, one structure was to be burned, with the balance to be handled through the court procedure. He had spoken with the Judge to make him aware of the City's plan to address these nuisances. Mr. Hayes had also inventoried the northeast section, identifying 15 structures that needed to be addressed. From there he planned to inventory nuisances in the other quadrants of the City.

Reports from Mayor & Council:

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Mayor VanLandingham announced that he will run in the election for Electric Cities of Ga. Board Member.

He had also met with the Downtown Development Authority and requested that they become part of a committee to look at ways to increase retail business.

He had attended a State Historical Society Annual Meeting where Vince Dooley and Sam Nunn had been elected as trustees.

Councilman Douglas requested a voting list of Electric Cities of Ga.

Executive Session. None

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

APPROVED:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK