

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 23, 2009

The February 23, 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, Fire Chief Donald Towne, Community Services Director Pat Mitchell, and Shop Supervisor Tedd Bryant. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was given by Councilman Douglas.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

### **DELEGATIONS:**

a.) Mr. Frank Yancey of the Golden Triangle RC&D was present requesting that the City of Cairo reconsider its decision not to renew its membership in the organization. He gave an overview of services provided by the organization which partnered with agencies such as United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Natural Resources. He stated that the group gave a voice on regional issues, as well as working on projects that addressed community issues. He added that two representatives from the City would serve two year terms. Mayor VanLandingham remarked that most of the projects shown in the information presented seemed to be county-oriented, and it might not be viable for the City. David and April Reckford were also present, and Mr. Reckford stated that the organization would be a source for grant writing, adding that a lot of USDA grants went through the RC&D. Mr. Yancey was requested to provide examples of projects and opportunities that might be available to the City, as well as the names of other member cities; and then the Council would consider the matter afterward.

### **SPECIAL EVENT:**

a.) **Dorothy Harris, The Power of Praise Ministries, Inc.** – Request to hold an outdoor revival behind church property at 1115 Highway 111 South on March 23 thru March 27, 2009 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The time of the event was discussed; with Attorney Lehman pointing out that the City's ordinance prohibited loud noises after 10:00 p.m. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the event with a 10:00 p.m. ending time. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members. It was requested that the Police Department monitor the event.

b.) **Cairo High School Relay for Life Team** – Request to hold a 5K race on February 28, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the area of Northside School, with the assistance of two police officers. City Manager Addleton noted that the route was the same one used last year. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

c.) **Cairo Fire Department** – Request for an In-Service Ceremony for the new ladder truck (Quint 1) on March 7, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Chief Towne was present and stated that the ceremony was a tradition in the fire service. He requested the closing of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., SE from 5<sup>th</sup> St. to 6<sup>th</sup> St. during the ceremony. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ordinance to amend Chapter 20 Entitled “Traffic” of the Code of Ordinances (Amendment of Speed Zones).** (Ordinance was introduced on January 14, 2008 and later put in proper format to be added to the Code of Ordinances). After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance with street name changes to be made to the listing submitted by DOT to correct “Bookerhill Blvd.” to “Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Downtown Cairo Master Plan.** After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the plan. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Mayor VanLandingham requested that details on costs be obtained and follow up on issues with the DOT regarding Broad Street.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit for the Calvary Corporation (David McQuary) to locate a Church at 112 North Broad St. in the CBD (Central Business District) Zone – Tax Map C20A, Parcel 12.** There were no public comments, so the Public Hearing was closed.

**Conditional Use Permit for the Calvary Corporation (David McQuary) for a Church located at 112 North Broad Street in the CBD Zone (Central Business District) – Tax Map C20A, Parcel 12.** City Manager Addleton advised that the applicant had asked to withdraw his application. Both the SOWEGA RDC and the Cairo Planning Commission recommended denial of the permit. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to deny the permit. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit for a Family Personal Care Home at 139 8<sup>th</sup> St., SW – Onesimus & Alice Properties, LLC (Roosevelt and Sue Isaac), Applicants – Tax Map C7, Parcel 208 - R-1 Zone.** There were no public comments, so the Public Hearing was closed.

**Conditional Use Permit for a Family Personal Care Home at 139 8<sup>th</sup> St., SW – Onesimus & Alice Properties, LLC (Roosevelt and Sue Isaac), Applicants – Tax Map C7, Parcel 208.** Both the SOWEGA RDC and the Cairo Planning Commission recommended approval of the permit. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the permit. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit for a Church located at 393 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., SE – James B. Carter, Applicant (Charles W. Nicholson, Property Owner) - Tax Map C20, Parcel 146.** Rev. James B. Carter stated that he was originally from Cairo and, having been a pastor for five years, would now like to start a ministry here to reach out to young people in the community. There were no other public comments, so the Public Hearing was closed.

**Conditional Use Permit for a Church located at 393 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., SE – James B. Carter, Applicant (Charles W. Nicholson, Property Owner) I-1 Zone - Tax Map C20, Parcel 146.** Both the SOWEGA RDC and the Cairo Planning Commission recommended approval of the permit. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the permit. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

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**Knuckle Boom Truck Replacement.** City Manager Addleton reported that the City's boom was damaged in January, and that the insurance company had paid off \$32,707.75. He hoped to be able to get \$5,000 salvage value. Adding that this was an unexpected problem, he requested that the purchase of a side-arm mower be postponed until next year in order to redirect that funding to replace the boom. He had presented purchase options and recommended the 2010 International 7400 truck (\$65,942) and the Pacmac loader/body (\$44,600). Council Members expressed concern regarding the postponement of the mower purchase for safety reasons and discussed the purchase of the boom. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to order the boom using the insurance settlement for a down payment, financing the balance on a short-term note, and considering payment of the note in the upcoming budget; making it possible to go ahead and seek bids for the mower as well. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Mayor VanLandingham requested Community Services Director Mitchell to see what could be done to eliminate the holes created by use of the knuckle boom.

**Land Donation from First Investments.** City Manager Addleton advised that Bobby Burns, Sr., President of First Investments, Inc., had offered to donate to the City eight acres of property bordered on the west by 11<sup>th</sup> St., NE and on the east by Little Tired Creek. There would be a cost of \$1,900 for reimbursement for the cost of a survey to break out .91 acres that would be retained by Mr. Burns. The timber would also be cut before the transfer of ownership, leaving 50' along the creek. City Manager Addleton recommended that a Level I Environmental Assessment be conducted at a cost of approximately \$2,200. Stating that there were already utility easements on the property, he noted that the property provided water drainage for the area from Wal Mart to the east. He added that it could be used as wetland mitigation to offset impacts from other sites, as a future detention pond site for flood control, or possibly a future park or trail. Council discussed the clear cutting of the timber and whether any trees would be left. Attorney Lehman advised that there were no laws on tree cutting and also suggested getting a title check. After discussion, Council decided to wait and make a decision after the timber had been harvested and the assessment completed.

**Fireworks for July 4<sup>th</sup>.** Two proposals from Melrose Pyrotechnics, Inc. were presented: 1.) a 21-22 minute display on July 4<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$10,000, and 2.) a 17-18 minute display on July 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$7,500. The Grady County Commission had been requested to assume one-half of the cost and was to consider the matter at their February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to fund Proposal #1 (\$5,000) for the fireworks display on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Self-Inspection Program Policy.** City Manager Addleton reported that, in order to apply for grants through the Local Government Risk Management (LGRM), a self inspection policy must be approved and in place. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the policy. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Safety and Health Training Policy.** City Manager Addleton advised that the policy would establish the requirements for health and safety training and must be approved and in place in order to apply for grants through LGRM. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the policy. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**REPORTS:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

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a.) **Changes made to GMA Convention Schedule.** Council was informed that one day of the schedule had been eliminated and that extra training had been added. Hotel reservations had been made at the Marriott.

b.) **20' Easement between the City of Cairo and Ericka Camille Land Corp (Installation, operation, and maintenance of utilities).** City Manager Addleton advised that the easement was needed to service the proposed Northfield Subdivision. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the easement. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Addleton reported that the recent tornado had not done any damage inside the city limits, but two crews had been sent to Thomasville to help with the damage there.

He advised that he had sent a memo regarding tobacco use and wearing of seat belts to all City employees as requested.

He had sent an email to the Mayor and Council regarding funding of the stimulus plan and presented a list of "shovel-ready" projects that had been sent to the Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. He noted that there were also some grant opportunities for Police, Fire, DOT, Energy Efficiency efforts, and Water. Some were earmarked for small rural populations, and he hoped that some of the funds would trickle down to the Cairo.

### **REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Councilman Thornton requested that the Police Department monitor littering more closely, as it had become a problem especially in his district. Council discussed placing an ad in the newspaper, as well as increasing the fine for littering.

Councilman Gwaltney asked that the traffic light at North Broad and Highway 84 be checked to see if it was operating properly.

Councilman Gilliard asked for an update on the work being done on 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., NW, with City Manager Addleton responding that most of the piping had been completed with some of the wing walls yet to be poured and sod to be laid. Some water lines had to be relocated, and each time it rained there was a delay. He stated that he would report on the project at the next meeting.

Councilman Douglas reported that the soccer matches held at the Industrial Park the previous weekend had been very noisy. He asked if they could be required to obtain a special event permit. Police Chief Sandefur was to be contacted regarding the complaint.

Mayor VanLandingham asked for an update on the utility billing changes, with City Manager Addleton responding that Cycle 1 billing would be sent out the next day. He added that there were a lot of checks and balances with the new system, but work was being done to get back on a regular schedule.

Mayor VanLandingham also reported that he, City Manager Addleton, and Councilman Cloud had been looking at the prospect of a Boys & Girls Club for Cairo with a possible location for the organization at the Holder Park Building. They were to meet in March to obtain more information.

Councilman Douglas asked if the 10% late fee amount was now being shown on utility bills, with Councilman Cloud stating that customers should still have 18 days to pay bills that were sent out late without incurring a late charge.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

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

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**APPROVED:**

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**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**CAROLYN B. LEE  
CITY CLERK**