

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 9, 2009

The March 9, 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 Thornton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the February 23, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENT:

a.) Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce – Jennifer Majors – Request for use of Davis Park for the Antique Car Rally on Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with blocking of 3rd Ave., NW and traffic control requested. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

b.) Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce – Jennifer Majors – Request for Parade Permit for Annual Antique Car Rally and Street Dance to be held on May 8th from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with street blocking, and crowd/traffic control requested. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Request from James Stewart and Pearline Johnson to place a 1995 manufactured home at 1806 Martin Luther King Jr., Ave., SW (Tax Map C4-5.1). After review, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud. Councilman Douglas inquired as to whether voluntary written consent had been given by adjoining property owners, with City Manager Addleton responding that approval of six property owners had been obtained with one out-of-town person not responding. The motion passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Resolution for Execution of City Financial Transactions. (Finance Director Faircloth had contacted three local banks for financing of the 2010 Knuckle Boom Truck (\$77,734.25) as discussed at the February 23rd meeting, with Ameris Bank having the lowest rate of 1.99% and a \$100 administration fee). City Manager Addleton advised that there would be an eight week delivery period for the truck, and the bridge loan would be used upon delivery. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the resolution for financing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Resolution for 2009 Electric Cities of Georgia Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate. The current authorized delegate was Mayor VanLandingham and the alternate, City Manager Addleton. It was agreed not to make a change, so no action was taken.

Request to Reduce Speed Limit on 17th Ave., NW. With the current construction of the new senior housing facility, City Manager Addleton requested that the current speed of 45 mph on 17th Ave., NW be reduced to 35 mph. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to have an ordinance prepared to reduce the speed from 45 mph to 30 mph rather than 35 mph. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and passed unanimously by all Council Members. (Ordinance to be prepared for adoption).

Introduction of Ordinance to Amend the City's Employee Retirement Plan through Approval of a Temporary Addendum to the GMA Defined Benefit Plan and Amended Adoption Agreement to allow a one-time Early Retirement Incentive Program. (as previously agreed upon by Council on January 29 and February 10, 2009). Ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the March 23rd meeting.

Finance Report for January, 2009. Councilman Douglas advised that the Committee had gone over the statements. There had been recent delays in utility billings, and it was hoped that they

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would be back on schedule during March with plans to work the following Saturday to catch up. The one million dollar shortfall was made up partially in February, and the balance was expected to be caught up in March. 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. It had been discussed at the Committee meeting to request Finance Director Faircloth to meet with the whole Council at the end of each quarter, and Council Members agreed to this. It was also requested that City Manager Addleton give an update on capital outlay projects at the same time.

REPORTS:

a.) Cairo Police Department – January 2009

b.) Code Enforcement Report – February 2009. With regard to the Citation Warning Report for Nuisance Violations, Council Members commented that it was good to see the report to know that complaints had been addressed. It was asked how the number of days given to respond to vehicle complaints was determined; with City Manager Addleton responding that the number of contacts previously made with the owner probably determined that time frame.

c.) Overtime Report – February 2009

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:

- 1.) The EJD demolition was completed and came in under budget.
- 2.) The 10th St. and 8th Ave. paving project was completed.
- 3.) Bid specifications for the 11th Ave., NW resurfacing project were being developed.
- 4.) The 3rd St., SW stormwater project had started.
- 5.) Developers of the Village at Wedgewood senior residential complex located on 17th Ave., NW had requested to be allowed to install and pay the costs for a sidewalk from the complex to the Senior Citizens Center (450 ft.). City Manager Addleton advised that the work would have to be done using DOT specifications and would also have to be inspected, with the City assuming future maintenance. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.
- 6.) The goal to sign up 300 telephone customers during the year had been surpassed with 344 current customers.
- 7.) City Manager Addleton reported on a Stimulus Package informational meeting that he attended in Camilla the previous Friday. He advised that funds would funnel through agencies such as the DOT, DCA, and USDA. GEFA monies would be placed in their revolving loan fund rather than disbursed through grants. DCA would have a special competition for funds, with applications due by June 1st, and City Manager Addleton planned to apply for funding for the Hotbed access project.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Gilliard commented that the Fire Department had a good program at the In-Service Ceremony for the new fire truck on the previous Saturday.

Councilman Cloud reported that the church at 112 North Broad St. which had been denied a conditional use permit at the February 23rd meeting was still having services at that location on the previous Sunday. It was requested that the owner of the property be contacted and, if he did not comply, to issue a citation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK**