

## **REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 9, 2015**

The March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. 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, and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Karen Murphy, were also in attendance.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Regular Council Meeting – February 23, 2015.** Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Budget Workshop Meeting – February 23, 2015.** Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **DELEGATIONS:**

**Mr. Jerome Bryant, Cairo Reds Baseball Team.** Mr. Bryant was present to request his team's use of the baseball field at Holder Park for the 2015 season. Ten of the 20 games would be at home on Sundays with practices held on Saturday evenings. He added that he would be responsible for seeing that the field was cleaned up afterward. City Manager Addleton added that the field would be available in July after the dedication in June. Motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Hearing - Rezoning Request from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) to R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential District) 1273 and 1275 Martin Luther King Jr., Ave., S.W. - Tax Map C7, Parcel 78.1 and Tax Map C7, Parcel 78 – Owners, Ernest Cooper and Delois Parker.** The public hearing was held without any comments being offered.

**Rezoning Request from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) to R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential District) 1273 and 1275 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., S.W. - Tax Map C7, Parcel 78.1 and Tax Map C7, Parcel 78 – Owners, Ernest Cooper and Delois Parker.** After review of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission report and minutes of the Cairo Planning Commission, both of which recommended approval of rezoning, Councilman Thornton made motion to approve the rezoning. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Introduction of Columbarium Ordinance to Establish Regulations and Cost of Transfer of Niches.** (Proposed cost of a niche would be \$500.00 each, to accommodate a maximum of two cremains,

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and each sealing and marking would result in a fee of \$300.00). The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

**Cairo Police Department – Police Vehicle Purchase Request for Two Patrol Vehicles (Dodge Chargers) and One Investigator Vehicle (Dodge Durango).** Quotes were obtained from Stallings Motors of Cairo as they were the only local dealer who could provide patrol vehicles under the State of Georgia Contract prices. Total cost was \$77,389.00 for all three vehicles, with the Chargers priced at \$24,388.00 each, and the Durango at \$28,713.00. Mayor Burns asked if the City obtained more than one bid on these purchases. City Manager Addleton noted that Chevrolet did not offer police vehicles, and the front-wheel drive Ford was not desirable. Bids could be sought from other Dodge dealers from out of town, but warranty work would probably need to be done locally. With a fifteen-week lead time, Councilman Douglas noted that it would be pushing to get the vehicles in the current fiscal year. Mayor Burns felt it would be prudent to the taxpayers to obtain more than one bid. Councilman Gwaltney added that, if there was not much difference in bids, he would rather buy locally. After discussion, Councilman Douglas made motion to approve the purchase of the three vehicles from Stallings Motors at \$77,389.00, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members. It was requested that, in the future, more than one bid should be obtained on all vehicles.

**Awarding Bid for Airport Apron Drainage Project and Approval of Contract Agreement with Blount & Sons Concrete Finishing Service, Inc.** Bids were re-advertised for the project, and four were received: **1.)** Blount & Sons Concrete Finishing Service, Inc. - \$185,650.00, **2.)** CMI, Inc. - \$251,677.65, **3.)** HTS Construction, Inc. - \$237,304.60, and **4.)** The Scruggs Company - \$248,000.00. Airport Consultant, Croy Engineering, had recommended accepting the low bid from Blount & Sons Concrete Finishing Service, Inc. in the amount of \$185,650.00, contingent on the receipt of the GDOT grant. After discussion, motion to award the bid as recommended and approve the contract agreement was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Awarding Bid for 8<sup>th</sup> Street SW CDBG Project #13p-x-065-2-5568 and Approval of Contract Agreement with HTS Construction, Inc.** Two bids were received as follows: **1.)** HTS Construction - \$489,169.00, and **2.)** Oxford Construction Co. - \$637,836.15 The engineer had recommended accepting the low bid from HTS Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$489,169.00. After discussion, motion to award the bid as recommended and approve the contract agreement was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Application for Alcoholic Beverage License (Beer and Wine, Consumption on Premises) - New Business: Grits “A Southern Event” located at 109 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.E., Vicki H. Davis, Applicant.** If approved, the license would be issued pending final approval by the Building and Fire Departments. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the application, pending final Building and Fire Department approval. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Purchase of Mobile Home from Jones Family located at 436 Smart St., N.W. on Property Previously Purchased by the City in 2013 as part of the Flood Mitigation Program (\$1,800 asking price).** City Manager Addleton advised that the mobile home was unoccupied and utilities were turned off. The owners had stated that they could not afford to move it, but would like to sell it. Council Members discussed options, noting that it did not look stable enough to move. Attorney Lehman advised that, if the City did not want to purchase the home, nuisance abatement procedures could be started to remove the unit since it was abandoned on City property. After discussion, Councilman Douglas made motion to reject the offer to purchase the unit and turn the matter over to Code Enforcement for

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abatement. Councilman Gwaltney seconded the motion which passed, with Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gilliard, and Gwaltney voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Thornton abstained from voting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Reports:**

**1. Departmental Reports** – Council Members reviewed without comment.

**2. City Manager Addleton:**

- Advised of an invitation from the Navy Jr. ROTC to a ceremony being held on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at the football stadium.
- City’s GEFA Pre-application to fund an automated meter reading system was number 12 out of 21 funded, with 55 total applications being submitted - \$1,189,000 with \$476,000 in principal forgiveness and a low interest rate.
- DOT LMIG bid opening to be held on Thursday.

**3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:**

- None

**Mayor Burns recognized Mr. Albert Ball who was present.** Mr. Ball stated that he had been asked by others why utility bills were so high in Cairo. He requested that an estimate of the City’s costs to provide services to residents be prepared and presented to the public. He was informed that the City’s costs to provide those services had increased over the last three years due to increased costs to the City and also from government regulations. The climate, amount of insulation in buildings, and a number of other factors could lead to higher bills. Some of those same factors were affecting all energy/service providers. Bills could also include charges for many different services – such as electric, water, sewer, gas, cable, internet, and phone, so the total did not always reflect the energy used.

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR**

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**CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK**