

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 10, 2014

The March 10, 2014 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street with Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Lannis Thornton, Council Members James H. Douglas, Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., and Robert L. Gwaltney. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Burns.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Workshop Meeting – February 24, 2014. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2. Regular Council Meeting – February 24, 2014. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Jerome Bryant of the Cairo Reds Baseball Team was present to request the use of the Holder Park Baseball Field for team practices. City Manager Addleton explained that the City was planning some upgrades to the field, and it would probably not be available until after July 1st. He requested that Mr. Bryant go by City Hall after he got his practice schedule and complete the reservation application.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of Ordinance to Correct Chapter 22 Entitled “Signs” of the Code of Ordinances, City of Cairo, Georgia. The ordinance would change the penalty amount from \$150.00 to \$200.00 and would correct reference to some section numbers.

Billboard Applications. Attorney Lehman referred to three applications submitted by Rose City Outdoor, LLC. Initial inquiry regarding permit applications was made by the company in October 2013, but applications were not received until February 17, 2014 due to the City being in the process of reworking the sign ordinance. According to Attorney Lehman, the applications would have to be considered for approval under the old ordinance. The first was for a billboard at 208 South Broad Street which did not meet the requirements of the new ordinance, as it was not located on a federal or state highway. The second was to be located at 35 Highway 84 E. but did not meet the minimum distance requirement of 300 feet from a residence, as it was 250 to 260 feet. The third, 2815 Highway 84 E., would meet the requirements if the height was lowered from 40 to 36 feet. Company owner, Neil Bell, was present and stated that the sign at 35 Highway 84 E. would need to be 40 feet high to avoid blocking another sign near that location, with Attorney Lehman advising that he would recommend allowing the 40 foot height, but to leave the ordinance as it was with a maximum of 36 feet. City Manager Addleton

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asked Mr. Bell if the Council approved the two applications on Highway 84, would he consider withdrawing the S. Broad application, with Mr. Bell responding affirmatively. After discussion, motion to approve the applications for 35 Highway 84 E. with a 40 feet height and 2815 Highway 84 E. at a height of 36 feet, pending withdrawal of the S. Broad application, was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Tax Sale Property – 497 M. L. King, Jr. Ave., SW (C13-150). City Manager Addleton stated that he had been made aware that taxes (\$874.82) on the property located at 497 M. L. King had not been paid since 2010 and had accumulated penalty and interest resulting in a balance of \$1,736.28. The property did not sale at previous tax sales and would not go to tax sale again until October. The lot joined Holder Park, and the house needed to be demolished. Council discussed acquisition of the property for the amount of taxes and requested City Manager Addleton to contact the County to see if they would agree to waive the penalty and interest if the City acquired the lot at the tax sale in October.

Obtain Appraisals for Acquisition of Properties Adjoining Landfill Property. City Manager Addleton presented a map and list of properties located on the eastern side of the Landfill that he recommended purchasing in order to have a buffer for Trench A for any future mitigation of methane gas. The trench had been established many years ago and was placed too close to the eastern property line. Also, cover dirt could be obtained there for Trenches A and B. He recommended obtaining formal appraisals on the lots for future potential purchase. After discussion, motion to have the appraisals done was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Attorney Lehman advised that he had begun sending letters to the owners.

Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) - Gas Supply Portfolio IV Contract and Resolution Approving the Contract. After review, motion to approve the contract and resolution was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) City Manager:

- Updated the Council on the 11th Ave., NW project – All storm water pipe had been installed, and the curbing people would be at work this week, with the tie-ins and resurfacing to follow.
- Recent problems with CNS Node 16 in the northeast section had called for some intensive efforts to solve the problem, but the root cause had been discovered and repaired earlier in the day.

2.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Thornton reported pot holes at 10th Ave. and 4th St., NW as well as on Clay Ave., SW.
- Councilman Gilliard reported that he had received a complaint with regard to noise on Sunday afternoons at the Catholic Church on 11th Ave., NW. Attorney Lehman was asked to look at the noise ordinance to see if it could be strengthened.
- Councilman Cloud reported that the buzzards were leaving droppings on headstones at Forest Lawn Cemetery. He also reported debris/trash on a lot at 13th Ave. and 3rd St., SW where a mobile home had been removed. He also inquired what could be done to

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eliminate trash/paper blowing from a neighboring business on 1st Ave., NE onto his lot. Attorney Lehman was to send a letter to the business owner.

- Councilman Douglas reported that some people were not rolling their garbage containers back into their yards within 24 hours, and some not at all. He asked that a notice be put in with the billing notices or in the Messenger to inform people of the regulations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:55 p.m., motion to enter into executive session to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property, or to enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)) was made by Councilman Thornton. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Present for the session were Mayor Burns; Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gilliard, Gwaltney, and Thornton; City Manager Addleton; City Attorney Lehman; and City Clerk Lee.

At 7:15 p.m., motion to end the executive session was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

There was no action taken as a result of the session, and Council returned to regular session.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK