

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 25, 2013

The March 25, 2013 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 Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Council Members James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Council Member Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr. was out of town. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, Community Services Director Pat Mitchell, and Asst. City Clerk Sandra Pearce. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor VanLandingham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – March 11, 2013. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Abandonment of the Unimproved Portion of Southwood Lane. City Manager Addleton recommended abandoning the unimproved portion of Southwood Lane located off South Broad Street and deeding the road to the adjoining property owners. The City had maintained and cleaned this portion of the road over the years, but it served no purpose to the City. He requested that the street be closed and to proceed with the process by advertising the closure. Ms. Bettye Fox, who owns property in the Southwood Lane cul-da-sac asked to speak and expressed her concerns against the street closure. Ms. Fox owns lots 12 and 13, and if the closure were to be approved, she would lose access to lot number 12. She discussed future plans for the lot, and if she were to place it for sale, she felt no one would purchase the lot because it would be landlocked. It was also discussed that two additional lots on Southwood Lane would potentially be landlocked as well. After further discussion, Attorney Lehman was instructed to research this issue and report his findings back to the Council.

Response to Georgia Department of Transportation regarding Closure of 3rd Street SE Railroad Crossing. City Manager Addleton explained to Council Members that a second letter had been received from CSX recommending that the 3rd Street crossing be closed. Council discussed the effects the closing would have on the surrounding property owners and businesses and requested more information. Attorney Lehman was asked to review the GA code regarding Highway-Rail Safety and report his findings back at the next Council meeting.

2013 Alcoholic Beverage Application Renewals (Guadalupe, Butler's Grocery, and 84 Splash). After review, motion to approve the applications was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Finance Report for the Month of February 2013. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members present

2.) City Manager:

- a. Resurfacing in the SE area was to be completed within a couple of days and striping would begin afterwards.
- b. The Jackie Robinson event went very well and the Boys and Girls Club Director extended his thanks to the City.
- c. The Trails Grant for Azalea Park had been denied and reapplication would be made in the Fall.

3.) Reports from Mayor & Council:

- a. Councilman Cloud had received a phone call in regard to a tree that was leaning toward the swing set at Davis Park. It was agreed that the tree should be taken down.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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At 6:40 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Cloud 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)). Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Present in the session were Mayor VanLandingham, Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gwaltney, and Thornton, Attorney Lehman, City Manager Addleton, and Asst. City Clerk Pearce.

At 6:55 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to close the session, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

As a result of the Executive Session, Council agreed to purchase property on 6th Street SW across from the Wastewater Treatment Plant for \$19,000. The City would also pay the demolition costs for seven structures at a cost of \$3,000. Motion to purchase was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed with Councilman Douglas, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor of the purchase. Councilman Cloud opposed.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

SANDRA PEARCE, ASST. CITY CLERK