

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 26, 2012

The March 26, 2012 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street with Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas presiding in the absence of Mayor Richard D. VanLandingham who was attending a meeting out of town. Council Members present were Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Robert L. Gwaltney was absent due to a death in his family. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee, Fire Chief Jim Fielding, and Marketing Director Celeste Tyler. Attorney Thomas L. Lehman joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Douglas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – March 12, 2012. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS: None.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Special Event Request - Marching for Travon - March for Justice to be held on April 8th at 8:00 a.m. - April 9th at 8:00 p.m., beginning at Chamber of Commerce, proceeding down Broad Street, and ending at Holder Park. Applicants Eddie and Elizabeth Thomas, along with Mr. Clifton Brown, were present to discuss the proposed event to provide support for family of the young man who had been killed recently in Sanford, Fl. For clarification, Council Members asked whether the march would take place in the street which would require DOT approval or on the sidewalk; and was the time period spanning 36 hours as listed on the application correct. No police escort had been requested, but it was noted that officers would be needed for a march with 200 expected participants. It was suggested that the group might reconsider assembling at the Downtown Plaza and marching to Holder Park, which would not require a DOT permit. Since the applicants had not finalized their plans for the event, they were requested to meet with City Manager Addleton to resolve the issues that were discussed and re-submit a new request for the April 9th meeting.

Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce – Annual Antique Car Parade/Street Dance on May 11th from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Car Rally on May 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Davis Park. After review, motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

City of Cairo Streetscape Selection Committee Recommendation for Design Consultant. (Action postponed from previous meeting). Marketing Director Tyler informed Council Members that after hearing presentations made by the top two candidate firms, it was recommended that Robert and Company from Atlanta be chosen as consultant for the project. City Manager Addleton added that, while both firms were capable and qualified, Robert and Company had more experience with TE projects. Mayor Pro Tem Douglas noted that the firm was located in Atlanta, and there might be more cost involved, with City Manager Addleton believing that the differential in travel costs and the cost of consulting would be small. After discussion motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to

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approve the selection of Robert and Company, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Attorney Lehman joined the meeting at this time.

Fire Department Request - Presentation on Cairo Public Safety Training Center. City Manager Addleton advised that per the Georgia PSC Joint Consent Agreement, three city-wide field/practical exercises had been completed with a county-wide drill scheduled for April 27th. In addition, the City had to dedicate an additional \$50,000 to the drills and a fire detection and suppression training facility. Otherwise the difference not spent would be paid to the PSC. Fire Chief Fielding had been researching options for a training facility to be located behind the Fire Department and had presented plans for a three-story simulator. However, just prior to the meeting he had received pictures of some less expensive models. Due to this additional information being received, he was requested to check out the other options. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to postpone this item to allow Chief Fielding to come back at the next meeting with updated information. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and passed unanimously by all Council Members present. City Manager Addleton advised that the facility was to be completed within a certain timeframe; but if the Council committed funds for the facility, he believed the PSC would work with the City on the completion date.

Selection of 2012 CDBG Project Engineering and Administrative Consultants. City Manager Addleton advised that each firm was evaluated by a selection committee comprised of himself, Public Works Director Raymond Stokes, and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. Scoring the highest number of points during the evaluation process, Bob Roberson and Associates, Inc. was recommended as administrative consultant and Watkins and Associates, Inc. as engineering consultant. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, that based upon a review of the proposals received, the scoring of the six criteria on the scoring worksheet, and following discussion of the proposals, the City of Cairo hire Watkins and Associates, Inc. as engineering consultants, and Bob Roberson and Associates, Inc. as administrative consultants, to design, and to complete CBDG projects for the City of Cairo as proposed. The motion passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Finance Report for the Month of February, 2012. Mayor Pro Tem Douglas reported that electric sales were down and also that projections for gas sales would not be met for the fiscal year. After review, motion to approve the report was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and approved unanimously by all Council Members present.

2.) City Manager Addleton reported that:

--- The Airport Committee had met and recommended that the Young Eagles event that had been discussed at a previous meeting be scheduled sometime during September or October.

--- A letter of thanks from the Ferst Foundation had been received.

--- 20th Street, NE had been re-opened the previous week, with only minor finishing work left to be completed.

--- The Bank of America (Department of Labor) building renovation was completed except for a sign at the front.

--- Davis Park Phase I was completed except for the gate. Inmates were to prune the azaleas along the stream.

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- Davis Park Phase II foundation work was in place, with roofing to be installed the following week.
- The bid for the test well at the Airport was to be advertised the next two weeks.
- The Seventh Ave. lift-station project was to go out for bid, with a target award date for the first week of June.

3.) Reports from Mayor & Council:

Councilman Thornton asked if a decision had been made regarding the parking problem at the intersection of 1st Ave., SW and MLK, with Attorney Lehman responding that he had looked at the area, and it was a bad intersection. Council Members discussed, with Attorney Lehman agreeing to look at the area again in search of a solution.

Councilman Gilliard asked if the first street in Greenwood Cemetery that ran parallel with Highway 84 would be re-opened, with City Manager Addleton stating that the entrance to the drive near 20th St. would not be accessible, and some paving had been extended onto the drive but would be cut out.

Councilman Cloud stated that he had received some complaints that the siren alert could not be heard over all areas of the City and asked if more alarms could be installed in other areas over town. City Manager Addleton agreed to meet with Chief Fielding and EMA regarding the matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK