

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 28, 2016

The March 28, 2016 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 James H. Douglas, Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Jerry L. Cox, 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, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Burns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Council Meeting – March 14, 2016. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Recognition of Public Works Crew: City Manager Addleton read an email which he had received from a citizen conveying appreciation and thanks to one of the Public Works crews whom he commended for their assistance with a sewer problem. City Manager Addleton recognized and thanked the crew members for their service. The employees who were present were Michael Ponder, Willie Teal, Andrea Armstrong, and Marcus Thomas. Michael Torres, also a member of the crew, was not at the meeting.

DELEGATIONS:

1. Vincent Hubbard, Sr., Owner - Lil V's BBQ & Food for the Soul. Mr. Hubbard, along with Ms. Tonia Johnson, were present in reference to their request to locate a fully self-contained mobile concession unit on City property near the bridge adjacent to Holder Park. They stated that the unit was insured and permitted and would be removed from the property daily, adding that they would be willing to rent or lease the property on 4th St., SW during summer school vacation. Council Members asked questions, with Councilman Cox expressing concern that allowing a private business on the property would be setting a precedent and also asked if it would benefit the Boys and Girls Club in any way. Ms. Johnson responded that they would do whatever they could for the Club. Atty. Lehman explained that the area was usually only used for short events and not rented or leased. An application fee for a 1-day event at the Park was \$25.00 for non-profit functions. City Manager Addleton stated that he would not want to see private businesses operating inside the City parks, adding that the lot was previously allowed to be used for tent revivals, but there had been problems with electric services for those events, so it was no longer being reserved. It was discussed whether the property was a part of Holder Park, with Councilman Cloud stating that, when the kiddie pool was eliminated, the area on 4th St. was set aside for a future children's park. Attorney Lehman advised that the Mayor and Council would need to decide policy on the matter. After discussion, Councilman Cloud made motion to postpone a decision on the request until a committee could be formed to study the matter. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2. Jerome Bryant, Cairo Reds Semi-Pro Baseball League – Request to use Baseball Field at Holder Park. Mr. Bryant stated that there would be six home games starting on April 3rd and possibly play-off games, adding that he was expecting some pro-scouts to be coming in this season. He had been asked earlier in the meeting if they had concessions available for the games and had responded that the team currently brings its own snacks and drinks. He added that some people will leave the park to get food and then have a problem finding parking upon their return. It was pointed out that the over-flow parking problem could be handled through use of the lot located on the east side of the bridge. After discussion, Councilman Cloud made motion to

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approve the request with the stipulation that the team furnish their own field lining. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cox and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Jackie Robinson Boys and Girls Club 5K Run/Walk, May 14, 2016, 8:00-9:30 AM, Cindy Johnson, Applicant. Mrs. Johnson presented plans and a route which began and ended at Holder Park, noting that the date was the same day as the Antique Car Rally. She had met previously with that group to work out any conflicts. She had requested police officer assistance, and it was suggested that she might also solicit help from the Sheriff's Dept. The walkers were to stay on the sidewalks, and runners would run along the side of the street. After discussion, Councilman Douglas made motion to approve the request contingent upon working out the officer assistance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rezoning Request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) To R-2 (Two-Family Residential District) on Church Street S. W. – Tax Map C14, Parcels 165, 166, and 166.1 – Applicants: Judson Alvin Gee, Jr. and Kenneth Weston. Councilman Thornton left the dais at this time due to a conflict of interest and did not take part in discussion or voting. Mr. Gee was present and stated that, after talking with Building Official Brian Hayes, he wished to have the property rezoned to R-3 rather than R-2, adding that Mr. Weston was not ready to pursue rezoning on his lot at the present time. When asked if that would affect his venture to build senior adult housing, he responded that it would not; adding that he did not have a specific site plan yet, but his contractor had done a quick survey as to what he would be able to build. City Manager Addleton inquired if Mr. Gee had received any negative response from residents in the area. Mr. Gee responded that the calls he had gotten had been positive when he explained his plans. Attorney Lehman noted that, while spot zoning to R-3 in an R1-A zone was not a good idea, it might be what was needed to start improvement of the neighborhood; adding that if approved, the Council could come back and look at rezoning the whole block. Mr. Gee noted that many of the houses along that block were in need of repair or being torn down. It was discussed whether or not to delay action until other rezoning could be considered. Councilman Douglas felt that a delay would hold up the project unnecessarily and made motion to approve the rezoning to R-3 (Parcels 166 & 166.1). Motion was seconded by Councilman Cox and unanimously approved by all Council Members, with the exception of Councilman Thornton who had abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request from Roddenbery Memorial Library Director Pamela Grigg to support Adam Womble in placing two “Little Free Library” units at locations in Cairo as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Ms. Grigg spoke on behalf of Adam Womble, who could not be present, stating that Mr. Womble was working on his Eagle Scout project. He had assembled four “Little Free Libraries” and wished to install two of them on city-owned property at Davis Park and the Boys and Girls Club. Each location would have an assigned steward who would take care of the library by adding materials when needed and maintaining the surrounding area. Ms. Grigg presented pictures of little libraries and explained the concept of “take a book, leave a book” to promote literacy and the love of reading. She noted that the libraries were found all over the world, with one already located in Whigham, adding that she had offered to become the steward for one at Davis Park. After the presentation, motion was made by Councilman Cox to allow the installation of the boxes at the two locations, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously

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approved by all Council Members. Council Members reminded Ms. Grigg that 811 should be called before any digging was done.

Credit and Debit Card Utility Payments – Proposal from Merchant e-Solutions.

City Manager Addleton presented a proposal from Merchant e-Solutions who was currently the vendor for online payment for utility services. The proposal would expand the service to allow for payments to be made by credit and debit cards onsite at the utility office. The City would need to lease or purchase three card reader terminals. The lease payment per terminal would be \$10.00 per month and include equipment upgrade and repair at no charge, as well as no charge for paper, along with an annual maintenance fee of \$59.99. The average cost to process the card payments would be 1.04% of the total collected. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to implement the proposal, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

1. City Manager:

- Scruggs Company will be repairing utility cuts on MLK.
- Safe Sidewalks will return on Monday to work on Highway 84 East and West and South Broad.
- Held pre-construction meeting on Streetscape with JCI and DOT, and they hope to start work in April; but the City will begin replacing the old water main as soon as possible.
- The first quarter water samples had tested below the allowable arsenic level at the MacIvor plant, and there were still no penalties incurred because of the corrective action in building the new water plant.
- A spill had occurred over the weekend at the Wastewater Treatment Plant due to heavy rainfall and I&I.

2. Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Thornton asked about low volume on Channel 6, and reported that freezing was also still occurring.
- Councilman Cox stated his appreciation for repair of the drain in front of the GCC.
- Councilman Cloud reported a light out in the traffic signal at the 3rd Ave. /N. Broad Street intersection.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK