

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR AND COUNCIL – APRIL 13, 2009

The April 13, 2009 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Council Members James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton and City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee. City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman was absent due to a conflicting meeting. Cairo Messenger Reporter Darrell Mudra was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gilliard.

Mayor VanLandingham introduced Brian Marlow, recently employed Industrial Development Director, and welcomed him to Cairo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 23, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

a.) Alan Parks. Mr. Parks, 620 1st St., SW, was present in regard to recent flooding in his area due to inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues. Stating that this had been an ongoing problem for years, he presented pictures of the area and requested resolution of the problem. Referring to a vacant house across the street where a 4” pipe had been cut loose, it appeared to him that stormwater was running into the sanitary sewer line, resulting in raw sewage overflowing and running into his pond. He stated that the City had checked his lines with a camera but had not found any problems there. In reference to the I&I issues, City Manager Addleton referred to the engineering design plan to be considered in next year’s budget to use the pond at the LAS site to hold the overflow of water on a short-term basis and then pump it back to the Wastewater Plant. The long-term Stormwater Master Plan would address I&I issues, and flow monitors had recently been purchased to help identify problem areas. Councilman Cloud noted that the manhole pictured in Mr. Park’s photos was too low. Having already added lime to the area to reduce the odor and doing some clean-up, City Manager Addleton added that he would address the open pipe issue and see that the ditches were cleaned out. A meeting with Mr. Parks was to be set up to discuss a solution to the problems.

b.) Bruce Brockway. Mr. Brockway was present regarding the denial of his application to operate a taxi service in Cairo and the Council’s discussion at the last meeting to increase the minimum insurance coverage limits. He requested that the insurance limits be left at the 25-50-25 level as he could not find or afford higher coverage, adding that most companies will only insure fleet owners. He added that he was the only single-owner taxi service in the private sector in this area, and his minimum rate would have to increase from \$8.00 to \$10.00 or \$11.00 which would be too expensive for most of his patrons. City Clerk Lee reported that Attorney Lehman had recommended a minimum of 100,000 Bodily Injury, 300,000 total Bodily Injury per accident, and 50,000 Property Damage. Mayor VanLandingham informed Mr. Brockway that his comments would be taken under advisement.

SPECIAL EVENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

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Ordinance to Amend Article II entitled “Speed” of Chapter 20, “Traffic” to Provide for a Reduced Speed Limit on 17th Ave., NW from 45 mph to 30 mph. (Ordinance was introduced at the March 23rd meeting). After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Closing of 15th Ave., NW from 7th St., NW East to the old 6th St., NW Intersection. Since last being considered for closing by the Council, Grady EMC had purchased property from SAR Crossroads, LLC adjoining 15th Ave., NW, resulting in the EMC owning the property on both sides of 15th Ave., NW. EMC had again requested that 15th Ave., NW be closed. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the closure, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. (Ordinance to be prepared by Attorney Lehman).

NEW BUSINESS:

Request from Charles Edwards Regarding the Placement of a 1995 Manufactured Home at 935 11th St., NE. City Manager Addleton advised that City staff did not have any issues with the request. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Information Received from Autry State Prison in Reference to Inmate Contract for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 (\$39,000 annually). City Manager Addleton announced that a confirmation to continue the service had been requested, and the contract would be sent later. Council discussed and asked questions regarding the service, with City Manager Addleton responding that the number of inmates on a crew was between four and twelve. It was noted that the crew did not come for several weeks due to their van being totaled in an accident and also because of a redistribution of inmates to various other facilities. City Manager Addleton stated that a log had been kept of the number of inmates and the days worked, and credit would be given at the end of the year for any deficiencies. He was also to request that at least six inmates be provided. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to continue use of the inmate service, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Resolution for Participation in Georgia Cities Week, April 19-25, 2009. (Participation previously approved). City Manager Addleton advised that Human Resources Director Carolyn Meades had an event planned (equipment demonstration) at one of the schools during the week. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Resolution for Federal Aid Highway for the Georgia Department of Transportation. City Manager Addleton reported that the resolution came as a result of his request to have 20th St., NE, which links two state routes, reclassified from an Urban “Local” Street to an Urban “Collector” Street, beginning at its intersection with Highway 84 and extending to its junction with Highway 188. The change was made in order to be eligible for Federal funds. After review, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Revision of Preliminary Plat for Northfield @ Valley Pines Subdivision Located off Airport Road and US Highway 84 East. City Manager Addleton advised that the original preliminary plat had been approved in June 2008 contingent upon the developer working with adjoining property owners regarding the access off Airport Road. Since that time, the developer had acquired property in order to widen the proposed entrance by way of an undeveloped previously

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platted street on Airport Road. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the revision, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Finance Report for February 2009. Councilman Douglas reported that a revised copy of the report had been presented at the Finance Committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting. The original report had been affected by Utility Billing issues, and the revised report corrected the revenue figures. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the revised report, with a copy to be sent to those Council Members that were not on the Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members. A financial report was to be presented to the full Council at the next meeting.

REPORTS:

a.) Cairo Police Department – March 2009

Council Members reviewed the report and requested increased monitoring of speeding in several areas of town. Also to be monitored was the intersection at Highway 84 where drivers sometimes exited at the WalMart gas station illegally crossing over Highway 84 to access 8th Ave. behind the Dairy Queen. Council Members commented on the arrest report that showed two arrests for speeding which they thought was a low number; however, the report showing the total citations issued was not available in time for the meeting.

b.) Code Enforcement Report – March 2009

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Addleton: **1.)** Reported that currently there were 400 telephone customers, with approximately 15 being added each week. **2.)** Planned to propose minimum insurance limits for taxi cabs at the next meeting. **3.)** Reminded Council Members of the GMA District 10 Listening Sessions. **4.)** Announced Congressman Bishop's Stimulus Meeting to be held Thursday at Southwest Georgia Technical College. He had proposed three projects to be submitted for stimulus funding through various State agencies: **a.)** 17th Ave., NW paving thru DOT, **b.)** 6th Ave., NW stormwater and access road through DCA, and **c.)** Subsidizing loan for water well thru GEFA, adding that there were far more requests than there was stimulus money. **5.)** Reported on fire response with Quint truck in Whigham the previous Friday at Farmers Peanut Company, emphasizing the need for a mutual aid agreement. **6.)** Announced that DRMP would be present at the next meeting regarding the Stormwater Master Plan.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Gwaltney asked that 11th Ave., NW be monitored for speeding.

Mayor VanLandingham: **1.)** Referred to a report on an economic development meeting that was held at Lake Oconee, stating that he would follow-up with Director Marlow. **2.)** He also reported that he and Councilman Cloud would both be out of town for the May 11th meeting. It was agreed to go ahead and have the meeting on the 11th with Councilman Douglas to preside. **3.)** He reported that several people had approached him regarding having some sort of celebration downtown on July 4th. He inquired if the Council was interested in using the fireworks funds if the Downtown Merchants' Association worked in conjunction with the Downtown Development Authority on something. Councilman Douglas wanted information on costs before reconsidering, and Councilman

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Gwaltney noted that several people had told him that they agreed with cancellation of the fireworks due to the current economy. Councilman Cloud was to contact DDA Chairman, Scott Higginbotham, to set up a meeting to discuss the matter.

Councilman Cloud: **1.)** presented a special event request from Bethlehem AME Church to have a walk on May 2nd from the Church on 4th Ave., SW to Holder Park and for use of the Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. **2.)** Requested that the hedges at Crestview Cemetery be trimmed. **3.)** Requested that the Animal Control Ordinance be reviewed for greater control/enforcement as a result of a recent experience with some pit bulldogs.

Councilman Douglas reported on some drainage ditches on MacIvor Drive that were blocked by sand and requested that they be cleaned.

Councilman Gilliard asked questions regarding the proposed City-County Drug Task Force. Council Members discussed, with City Manager Addleton responding that the budget was still being worked on; and that some sort of drug force was needed even if it was solely for the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK