

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – APRIL 14, 2014

The April 14, 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, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, and Chris Renaud and Chris White with CNS. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Cloud.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Preliminary Plat Review – Country Club View, LLC (Phase One) located on Crine Blvd., NW – Tax Map 52, Parcel 31.1 – Paul Roddenbery, Owner; Chuck Thomas, Developer. The property had been annexed in 2005, and the plat had recently been reviewed by the Cairo Planning Commission who had recommended its approval. After review, motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to approve the preliminary plat, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Adoption of Ordinance to Re-Zone Parcel Located at 1287 Holder Ave., SW - Tax Map C7, Parcel 73 from R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential District) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District). The ordinance had been introduced on March 24th. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Request to Contribute to Zebulon Theatre in Support of Digital Upgrade. Councilman Douglas opened the discussion by expressing his opinion that the project was a great idea, but a contribution made with taxpayers' money would not be in the best interest; therefore, he made motion to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud who agreed with Mr. Douglas. Councilman Gilliard stated that the Zebulon was a vital part of downtown; but if a contribution was made, it should be done in the right manner. Attorney Lehman pointed out that it would have to be done on a contractual basis to insure that it was in the public interest. Councilman Gilliard suggested doing something similar as was done with the Boys and Girls Club in which the City had provided them use of a building. Attorney Lehman noted that there was a contract with the Club, and money could be funneled to the Zebulon through the DDA with a contract. Councilman Gwaltney stated that it was still taxpayer's money and agreed that the theatre should not be funded by government. Mayor Burns stated that he did not have a vote, but believed that taxpayers would want him to speak out on the subject. He was not in favor of giving tax dollars to provide city services that had been collected involuntarily to non-profit organizations that he believed should be funded by private individuals. He felt the balance owed on their note could be paid over time or with additional contributions. In closing, he told Ms. Lequita LeGette

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that he would make a personal contribution of 10% of the amount requested to the theatre. Councilman Douglas also agreed to make a personal contribution. Council Members voted unanimously to deny the request to make a contribution to the Zebulon.

Awarding of Bids for Sale of LAS Timber. City Manager Addleton reported that bids were received for two distinct parcels, Sale “A” for a 40-acre tract (un-thinned planted pines) and Sale “B” for a 210-acre tract (thinned pines and natural hardwood). Six bids were received for Sale “A” and three bids for Sale “B”. It was recommended that the highest bids be awarded as follows: “A” from N & W Timber, Inc. for \$86,135.00; and for “B” from John A. Cruce Jr., Inc. in the amount of \$235,088.00. He added that bidding at the present time had timed the market well, as the bids were a good bit more than expected. Part of the proceeds would be used to replant the sites, and the balance used to reduce the LAS debt. In answering questions regarding the spray system at the site, plans were to take up the risers but to leave the underground PVC pipe in place. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to award the bids to the two highest bidders as recommended, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

CNS Cable TV Mid-Year Rate Adjustment (Effective with June Billing). The rate adjustments were recommended due to the recent increase in the cost paid for programming which was greater than the amount expected for the year. The increase would not affect the rate for basic cable and consisted of passing along only increases to recoup costs. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the rate adjustments, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Resolution Recognizing Georgia Cities Week – April 13 through 16, 2014. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

2014 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal for Butler’s Grocery located at 1390 M. L. King, Jr., Ave. – Retail Beer, Package. After review, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) City Manager:

- Mr. Chris Renaud and Mr. Chris White, both with CNS, were present to update the Council on the causes of some recent issues in Node 16, as well as provide general technical information on the CNS system.
- Reported on the recent resignation of two Cairo Planning Commission members (Tyson and Nickerson).
- Reminded Council of the Jackie Robinson event to be held on Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club.
- Asked who would be attending the GMA Listening Session to be held in Bainbridge on Wednesday.
- Reported on several meetings he had attended the previous week – Public Service and Outreach Awards Luncheon in Athens, Public Service Commission (PSC)/Pipeline Safety Seminar in Macon, and GMA Committee meeting in Byron.

2.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

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- Councilman Thornton reported on pot holes in the street near the railroad on 4th St., NW & SW, as well as at 10th St.
- Councilman Cloud reported that overgrowth needed to be cleared from around the house located at the LAS site. City Manager Addleton responded that plans were to either demolish the structure or to burn it for fire training.
- Councilman Cloud reported that the lot located at the corner of 13th Ave., SW and 3rd St., SW, where a mobile home had been removed, needed cleaning.
- Councilman Cloud requested that the culvert/pipe near the Pickle Stream at 4th St and 4th Ave., SE that was clogged with sand/dirt be cleared.
- Councilman Douglas reported that he had received more calls on an ongoing problem with an aerobatic airplane flying over City neighborhoods. Councilman Gilliard, Mayor Burns, and City Manager Addleton had also received calls. Attorney Lehman was asked what could be done about the situation, responding that the subject’s airport privileges could be suspended until the situation was resolved. After discussion, Councilman Douglas made motion to suspend the pilot’s privileges at the Airport indefinitely due to noise and safety issues. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:45 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 Gilliard. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud 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 7:10 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