

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 28, 2008 in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., and Robert L. Gwaltney. Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas and Councilman Lannis Thornton were not present at the meeting. Staff members in attendance were City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Executive Asst. Donna Young, Building Official Brian Hayes, and Fire Chief Donald Towne. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind and Times Enterprise Reporter Teresa Williams were also in attendance.

INVOCATION – Councilman Gwaltney gave the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the April 14, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, with all Council Members present voting in favor of approval. Minutes of the April 23, 2008 Special Called Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, with all Council Members present voting in favor of approval.

DELEGATIONS:

a.) Mr. Wallace Sholar, who was scheduled to address the Council, was not present for the meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

a.) **Permit for Parade of the Washington Consolidated School Alumni** – August 9, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. beginning at Washington Middle School on M. L. King and ending at Holder Park. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the parade request, seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

b.) **Use of Holder Park Grounds and Restrooms** – Washington Consolidated School Alumni, August 9, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Council discussed that this event would not qualify for use of the building under the grant that was received. Councilman Cloud reported that Community Services Director Pat Mitchell had been considering purchase of portable toilets to be used at the parks. Mayor VanLandingham asked if the pool area could be secured so that restrooms at the pool building could be opened for the event. He requested that improvements, including bathrooms, for City parks be considered on the City's planning list. As the event would not take place until August, Council discussed going ahead and approving the use of the grounds, putting off action on restrooms until further information on portable toilets or other restroom facilities was obtained. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request for use of the park grounds only. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 5 entitled “Animals and Fowl” – To Define the Areas where Livestock is Permitted and to Set Requirements. It was noted that Attorney Lehman, at Council’s request, had added fencing information to require secure fencing of sufficient height and to prohibit electric fences, with the Building Official to determine what would be sufficient fencing in each case. Attorney Lehman reported that those people who were in compliance under the old ordinance would be grandfathered in, and Mr. Hayes was asked to make a list of those people. Mr. Hayes reported that there were some animal owners in the City who were not in compliance previously or under the new ordinance. He was directed to issue warning tickets and proceed to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Hayes also informed the Council that the horses that had been discussed at a previous meeting had been moved outside the City. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 4 entitled “Alcoholic Beverages.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). City Clerk Lee reported that staff had recommended that the application fee for beer and wine be changed to \$60.00 as a result of Council’s request for review of the fee. The amendment would also provide for changing the month for the application renewal process from March to February of each year to give a longer period for inspections. It would also eliminate the application fee on new applications from being credited to the cost of the license. Other changes would specify the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight in which a door between adjoining package liquor and package beer/wine stores may be unlocked. It would also add specific language to require the fingerprinting of liquor license applicants. Distance provisions would be set to comply with state law for the location of alcoholic beverage establishments from housing authority properties and for polling places on election days. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6 entitled “Buildings, Construction and Related Activities.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). This amendment would remove the \$25.00 registration fee for contractors in order to comply with state regulations. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 9 entitled “Court and Criminal Procedure.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). The amendment would change the contempt of court fine from \$50.00 to \$200.00, change the day and time of court sessions, and remove the witness fee of \$10.00 paid to off-duty police officers. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 11 entitled “Fire Prevention.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). Language was changed in this section to agree with wording in the Health and Sanitation Chapter 12 regarding the burning of trash and the permitting requirements. It would also add the dimension requirements (6x6 feet or less) of piles of natural vegetation that the Fire Department would allow to be burned. Council suggested that these requirements be advertised in the newspaper. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12 entitled “Health and Sanitation.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). Changes to this section would correspond with requirements in the Fire Prevention Chapter. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 14 entitled “Occupation Taxes and Regulations.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). The amendment would add wording that would prohibit the issuance or renewal of an occupation certificate or license until such time that all delinquent debts owed to the City were paid in full. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 entitled “Planning and Development.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). Changes to the ordinance would eliminate the requirement that Directors of the Downtown Development Authority would have to reside in the City. It also redefined the geographical development area as defined in the resolution adopted by the Council. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 19 entitled “Subdivisions.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). This amendment would change the size requirements of final subdivision plats to be recorded as required by the Clerk of Superior Court and would also specify the minimum radius of 50 feet for the outside curb of a cul-de-sac. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20 entitled “Traffic.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). This amendment would remove 1st Ave., SW, from 4th St., SW to M. L. King, from the list of designated one-way streets as previously approved by the Council. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 21 entitled “Vehicles for Hire.” (Ordinance was introduced at the April 14th meeting). The amendment would correct the Code Section referred to in Section 21-22 from “14-13” to the correct Section Number “14-4.” After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 1230 6th Ave., NW – Rubbish/Garbage - Willie Mae Hall, Owner (C8-175.7). Council discussed the option of ticketing rather than abatement, with Attorney Lehman suggesting giving a 15-day warning ticket prior to a fine. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the resolution to abate the nuisance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 317-319 13th Ave., NW – Sewer Concern – Charlotte Dillman, Owner (C11-93). It was reported that corrective action had been taken; therefore, no action was needed.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 104 18th Ave., NW – Rubbish/Garbage, Overgrowth, Abandoned/Vacant Structure – C. B. Murkerson (c/o David Francisco & 2 Others), Owner (C23-5). It was reported that Mr. Murkerson had requested a 14-day extension. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to grant a 30-day extension. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 31 7th Ave., SW – Condemned Structure, Appliances, Rubbish/Garbage, Overgrowth, Appliances, Abandoned Vehicles – John B. Tuggle, Owner (C18-15). It was reported that the owner had requested a 60-day extension. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to grant a 60-day extension on all three Tuggle properties. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 21 5th Ave., SW – Condemned Structure – John B. Tuggle, Owner (C19-135). See above motion to grant a 60-day extension.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 25 5th Ave., SW – Condemned Structure, Overgrowth – John B. Tuggle, Owner (C19-136). See above motion to grant a 60-day extension.

Resolution Outlining Support for Rehabilitation of Longleaf Apartments located at 101 13th Ave., NE through application to Ga. Department of Community Affairs. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the

resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and approved by all Council Members present.

Appointment to South Georgia Governmental Service Authority (SGGSA).

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to appoint the new City Manager, Chris Addleton, to serve on the Authority. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on One Convenient Store. Building Official Hayes reported that the lot behind the store had been cleaned. Attorney Todd Butler was present on behalf of the store owner. He informed the Council that an offer had been made for purchase of the property, and that there was a possibility that it may be offered at auction. Adding that 60 days may not be sufficient time for the acquisition, he requested that the Council recognize the progress that had been made in cleaning up the property per the agreement reached. Demolition of the other buildings on the site was discussed, with the Council noting that action would not be taken until the end of the 90-day period. Councilman Cloud noted that there would still be a problem with log trucks and tractor trailers parking on the lot.

Update on Repair Costs for Fire Engine 8. Mayor VanLandingham reported that Fire Chief Towne had received an estimate for the repairs in the amount of \$25,600. Councilman Cloud noted that \$200,000 had been budgeted in the present year that could be applied toward a ladder truck. Chief Towne reported that a FEMA grant was expected for the other pumper truck, adding that a demo ladder truck should be available in July.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the expenditure for repair costs. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and approved by all Council Members present.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Cloud requested Attorney Lehman to look at an amendment to the Cemeteries Ordinance to address lighted angels and crosses, as well as flowers, to make it known that the City is not responsible for damage or theft of those items. Attorney Lehman asked about damages that might occur to monuments and slabs, with Councilman Cloud noting that slabs are not allowed at Forest Lawn for that reason. Mayor VanLandingham requested that Exec. Asst. Young bring expense information on maintenance of the cemeteries to the next meeting.

Councilman Gwaltney reported that he had received complaints of barking dogs and asked Attorney Lehman to check to see what could be done in the ordinance to address that problem.

Councilman Gilliard reported on a complaint from Mr. Arley Fisher whose lot on North Broad Street adjoined the house that was being torn down. Building Official

Hayes was requested to call the EPD (Environmental Protection Dept.) to receive a status report on the scheduled clean-up. Councilman Cloud asked if the City could send a letter to Citizens Bank, with Mayor VanLandingham suggesting that the EPD report be obtained first.

Councilman Cloud inquired as to the status of the storm water survey performed in the area of 3rd and 4th Sts., SW, with Exec. Asst. Young advising that a report had not yet been received from Engineer Stacy Watkins.

Mayor VanLandingham reminded the Council that Mr. Chris Addleton would begin work as City Manager on May 1st. He also noted two meeting dates that had been set, the Plant Vogtle meeting on May 12th and the Budget Workshop on May 5th.

REPORTS:

- a.) Cairo Police Department – March 2008
- b.) Request List from Mayor & Council

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK