

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JUNE 10, 2013

The June 10, 2013 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Council Members James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Robert L Gwaltney was out of town. 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 Councilman Gilliard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – May 30, 2013. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously, with all Council Members present voting in favor.

DELEGATIONS: Mayor VanLandingham introduced Carlos Tobar, recently-hired County Administrator, welcoming him to Cairo, adding that the Council looked forward to working with him.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1. Faith Temple Church Pink Ladies Walk for Life – Breast Cancer Awareness and Fundraiser on October 5, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00. (Re-visited from May 30, 2013 action.) Ms. Cora Walden was present and explained that the event was being held to raise awareness for breast cancer. She was previously informed that Police Chief Sandefur had requested that the walk take place on the sidewalks and not in the street. The group had requested that the Council rescind their action that required that the walk be restricted to the sidewalk so that they could have the streets closed to walk on those. It was learned from Ms. Walden that it was now planned to start the walk at the Courthouse and end at Holder Park, with no return trip to the route beginning. The number of participants had also grown from 50 walkers to 150 to 500. City Manager Addleton advised that both he and Police Chief Sandefur had safety concerns. There were also issues with the additional expense of having to bring in officers, concern in limiting access to downtown merchants, as well as numerous other groups that would also ask for street closings in the future. It was noted that a small list of five or six parades had been identified by the Council several years ago to be allowed permits to close Broad Street. It was suggested that it might be safer and less costly to change the route to the high school or to a neighborhood, but Ms. Walden did not think they would have the same visibility as on Broad Street. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to postpone action, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed with Council Members Cloud, Thornton, and Gilliard voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Douglas opposed the motion. Ms. Walden was asked to contact Councilman Cloud to discuss the route plans.

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2. Special Event Permit for New Testament Holiness Church – Andre Walker - Two-day Revival at Davis Park – July 12 & 13, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There was not a representative of the group present. Council discussed and expressed concerns with the limited amount of lighting in the park at night, the number of attendees, and noise from the music. The applicant had originally asked for permission to install a tent but was informed that it would not be allowed due to possible damage to the irrigation system. Council asked if the applicant from Texas was affiliated with a local church. Also discussed was the overall plan for use of Davis Park. It was noted that there would probably be kids playing on the equipment at the same time as the event, so it was suggested that the event be held someplace on private property, or perhaps at Azalea Park where a tent could be erected. Councilman Douglas made motion to deny the application submitted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Douglas and Gilliard, with Members Cloud and Thornton abstaining. There was some question as to whether two votes would carry the motion, with Attorney Lehman thinking that it would. However, after further discussion, it was requested that City Manager Addleton offer the applicant the site on 4th Street, SW next to Myles Laundry from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. where a tent could be set up; to also furnish power at that location; and to charge a \$50 fee for rental of the lot to pay for power used. It was also suggested that the City revisit the reservation fee and add a security deposit for Davis Park rental.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Final FY 2013-2014 Budget and Introduction of Budget Ordinance FY 2013-2014. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the \$40,862,581 FY 2013-14 Budget at the department level. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Members present.

Cairo Fire Department - Acceptance of \$135,000 FEMA Grant (City's Share of Grant - \$6,750) for Fire Prevention Trailer. The trailer was to be used for teaching home, school, and commercial fire safety with the understanding that it would be sent to surrounding counties for special events and would be the only one of its kind south of Atlanta. Council discussed and had some questions, so it was decided to postpone action until the next meeting. They requested to see the balance of the grant document at the June 20th meeting as well as information on how the trailer would be transported to other cities.

Agreements between the City and Grady County Commissioners for the Use of the Direct Record Electronic Voting System Equipment and between the City and the Grady County Registrar to conduct Absentee Balloting. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve both agreements, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Members present.

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Flood Zone Property Acquisition from Gary and Verna Grant. City Manager Addleton reported that Gary and Verna Grant had inquired about the City purchasing three parcels of property (C7-28, 29.1, 29.2) located in the flood zone on Smart Street for the total assessed value of \$13,020. He stated that he would like to be able to purchase other parcels in the flood plain, parcels C7-27 & 29 (Prince Brown) and C7-26 and 30 (Jimmy Copeland), but would need to know how the Council wished to maintain the property. He proposed maintaining natural vegetation within 200 feet of a building and leaving the balance in its natural state. It was noted that to do otherwise would be expensive, and the maintenance issue would need to be decided before other tracts were acquired. It was also suggested that a holding pond could be considered. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the purchase of the Grant lots at \$13,020, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Members present.

Rescheduling of Regular Council Meeting on June 24th to June 20th to avoid a conflict with the Annual GMA Convention. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to reschedule the meeting to June 20th, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1. Finance Report for the Month of April 2013 (Item postponed from 5-30-13 meeting). After comments, Councilman Douglas made motion to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Members present.

2. City Manager's Report:

- The commercial zoning review with SOWEGA Regional Commission was close to being completed.
- Two water fountains were to be installed in Davis Park and Holder Park.
- Curbing on the CDBG Project on Teresa Edwards St. should be finished within the week.
- Bids for the 11th Ave., NW Project were to be opened on July 2nd.
- Electric line relocation on Highway 93 South had been completed.
- Requested a count of attendees for a breakfast at the Convention.

3. Reports from Mayor & Council:

- Councilman Cloud asked about extending pipe at the Teresa Edwards Project out to Highway 111 South, learning that it could be extended to the DOT right-of-way.
- Councilman Gilliard reported that the Bishop house on 10th Ave., NW was currently being torn down. He also noted that he thought that Mr. Jerry Cox would be at the meeting to request that 10th Ave., NW be made a one-way street from 4th St., NW to 1st St., NW, with City Manager Addleton advising that Mr. Cox would be submitting a letter.

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- Councilman Cloud asked that an overgrown lot across from Aretha Hubbard, 910 10th St., NE, be checked, as it was being used for a “lovers’ lane”. He also requested that the prison detail guard be required to pick up signs after daily detail, with City Manager Addleton responding that he and Supt. Pat Mitchell were getting a quote for labor from another source. He also asked when the building on the recently acquired property on 6th St., SW would be torn down and was informed by City Manager Addleton that the work had been scheduled.
- Councilman Douglas noted that there were a lot of potholes, especially after all the rain, and requested that there be a more pro-active effort for report and repair. He noted that the sanitation trucks travel every street in town over the course of a week, and potholes could be reported via the GPS equipment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:55 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Thornton to enter into Executive Session to discuss an ongoing lawsuit (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)). Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Present for the session were Mayor VanLandingham, Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gilliard, and Thornton, City Manager Addleton, Attorney Lehman, and City Clerk Lee.

At 7:00 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Cloud to end the Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

There was no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

**CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK**