

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JUNE 20, 2013

The June 20, 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., Robert L Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Fire Chief Jim Fielding, and Public Works Director Raymond Stokes. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – June 10, 2013. Motion to approve minutes, with the addition of City Manager Addleton's name as having been present, was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously, with all Council Members voting in favor.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of Budget Ordinance for FY 2013-2014. After review, motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously with all Council Members voting in favor.

Cairo Fire Department Acceptance of Grant for Fire Prevention Trailer (Postponed from June 10th meeting). Fire Chief Jim Fielding presented information on the grant (\$135,000) for a Fire Prevention Trailer, stating that the state-of-the-art trailer would be used to teach fire prevention as well as what to do in severe weather conditions. All fire personnel would be trained on its use, and some firefighters had offered to accompany the unit to events on their days off. It would be the only one of its kind in the southeast, and he believed it would have a positive impact for his department and the City in general. Stallings Motors had agreed to provide a tow vehicle with a Stallings sign on it. Seven people would be needed for it to be fully functional. When other fire departments requested the use of it, they would take care of the costs involved. It would be taken to them, accompanied by two firefighters. If an overnight stay would be involved, the trailer would be secured at the visiting department, and the firefighters would return to Cairo in the truck. Before bringing the trailer back to Cairo, the borrowing department would clean the unit inside and out and refill the truck with gas. In reserving the unit, large events that would reach the most people would take precedence over smaller venues, as the goal was to reach thousands of people. After questions and discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to accept the grant, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously with all Council Members voting in favor.

Purchase of Flood Zone Property located on Smart Street from Mr. Prince A. Brown (C7 – Parcels 27 and 29). City Manager Addleton reported that Mr. Brown had agreed to sell the property to the City for its fair market value of \$3,000 for Parcel 27 and \$3,330 for Parcel 29. He added that he had wanted to obtain these tracts before considering the purchase

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of the Copeland property. After discussion, motion to approve the purchase was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously with all Council Members voting in favor.

Designation of 10th Ave., NW, from 4th St., NW to 1st St., NW, as “One Way During School Days Only” between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Councilman Gilliard left the dais during discussion of this agenda item and abstained from voting due to his affiliation with the School Board). City Manager Addleton reported that the Grady County Board of Education had requested the change to create a safer environment for Northside School children during bus loading and crossing 10th Ave. Something similar had been done at both Washington and Southside Schools. Council discussed the request as well as closing or making the area from the Chamber of Commerce to 1st St. one-way also. It was noted that making a part of 10th Ave. one-way as requested should eliminate some of the traffic turning left from Highway 84 onto 10th Ave. If it did not, other measures could be considered later. Also, proper signage and making the public aware of the change would be necessary. After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the School Board’s request, seconded by Councilman Thornton. Motion passed with all members voting in favor except Councilman Gilliard who abstained. Attorney Lehman was requested to prepare an ordinance to reflect this action.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1. Update on Airport Water Plant – Watkins & Associates. Engineer Stacy Watkins informed the Council that arsenic levels found in water at the Airport test well had been decreasing with pumping; but they would have to meet an acceptable level in order to obtain a permit for the wells. He introduced representatives from Severn Trent Services, a company that had provided a pilot test unit at the well site to remove arsenic from the water. Mr. David Slack, Senior Business Developer with Severn Trent, presented a power point giving the history of a timeline showing the lowering of acceptable arsenic levels in potable water over the years, the current level at 10 ppb. He presented a small container of media (granules) that was used in the filtration system to grab arsenic from the water, attach to it in an ionic bond, and could then be disposed of in a landfill. Life of the media would depend upon the system’s utilization factor, the influent water’s arsenic level, and the presence and concentration of other ions in the water that could shorten the media’s arsenic adsorption capacity. He gave examples of other filtration systems and the harmful by-products that they created, adding that his company’s system had proven to be the best alternative on the market for arsenic removal. Mr. Watkins believed that the testing had proven that and recommended proceeding with drilling a full-size well to begin pumping water so that the data, at that point, could be used to design a proper arsenic removal system and to determine maintenance costs. City Manager Addleton also recommended proceeding with bidding out the two permanent wells. After questions and discussion, motion to proceed with bidding out the two wells was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously with all Council Members voting in favor.

2. City Manager’s Report:

- The houses on 6th St., SW had been demolished.

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- The PSC audit on the Public Awareness Program had been completed with only some minor deficiencies that were being addressed.
- A new labor force contract would be presented at the July 8th meeting.
- Work on new landscaping for the Gateway would begin the following week.
- On June 26th, downtown focus groups were scheduled to meet in the Council Chambers.

3. Reports from Mayor & Council:

- Councilman Douglas inquired if there was irrigation in the Gateway triangle, with City Manager Addleton explaining that the water issue had been resolved.
- Councilman Gwaltney reported that he had received some complaints about speeders on Lullwater Circle, SE and drivers not stopping for the stop sign at 15th & Lakewood Dr. He requested extra monitoring by the Police Department.
- Councilman Cloud reported that he had been working with members of Faith Temple regarding the route for their walk, and that would be submitted later. He also reported that a crosstie at the railroad on 4th Street was rotten.
- Councilman Douglas noted that the email confirmation for the hotel in Savannah had not included a reserved parking space fee, but to look at the second email for that information. He was also concerned with large trucks entering and exiting the property at the new travel center at Highway 84 East and 3rd St., NE. It was noted that semi-trucks also used 3rd St. as a route to the ice company.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK