

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JULY 26, 2010

The July 26, 2010 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 Lannis Thornton, Council Members Earnest Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Councilman Kermit Gilliard, Jr. was unable to attend the meeting. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, Asst. City Clerk Sandra Pearce, and Fire Chief Jim Fielding. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor VanLandingham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – July 12, 2010. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

Newly hired City of Cairo Fire Chief, Jim Fielding, was present to introduce himself to the Mayor and Council. He explained that he had 30 years in the federal fire service and had most recently worked in Lowndes County as their fire chief. He had already talked to each of the shifts at the fire department to discuss the goals and objectives that he had for the department, and he felt the meetings had been very productive. He stated that the department had a great group of employees and that he was excited to be in Cairo.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consider Proposed Cell Tower – City Attorney Lehman briefed the Council on legislation that had been passed earlier in the year regarding lease agreements that would only allow a five year with an additional five year lease by governmental entities. Mr. Tom Phillips of Towercom III, LLC had requested a lease term of five years, with rights to extend for five additional 5-year renewals. City Manager Addleton was directed to meet with Mr. Phillips to see if he was still interested in the tower being located at the City's site, with Mayor VanLandingham stating that he would like a decision made by September.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - Close out for CDBG Project: 06p-x-065-2-3195 - Tired Creek Neighborhood – There were no comments from the public. Public hearing was closed.

Consider Close out for CDBG Project: 06p-x-065-2-3195 – Tired Creek Neighborhood – Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to close out the project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed by all Council Members present.

Consider Final Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20, Entitled “Traffic” of the Code of Ordinances: Speed Zone Ordinance/Due to Annexation – City Attorney Lehman stated that the ordinance would now reflect the state ordinance. Motion was made by Councilman Cloud to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed by all Council Members present.

Consider Davis Park Proposal for Engineering Services - Bryant King of DRMP and Charlie Johnson of Wood & Partners were present to discuss providing services to the City in hopes

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of controlling storm water issues in the downtown area. Mr. King discussed the storm water master plan and the construction of a storm water retention pond at Davis Park that could help reduce the flooding of businesses in the downtown area during heavy downpours. Mr. Johnson added that after the retention pond has been completed, he would like to help make the park an amenity to the public, stating that Davis Park could possibly become Cairo's version of Lake Ella in Tallahassee. Councilman Douglas asked Mr. King if local surveyors had been asked to bid on the surveying work for the project, with Mr. King responding that he had gotten an estimate from a surveying firm they typically use. Douglas, as well as Mayor VanLandingham, expressed their desire to see local surveyors used for the project if possible, with Mr. King stating that there would be no problem with that. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to accept the proposal for engineering services contingent upon local surveyors being contacted to bid on the project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed by all Council Members present.

Consider Priority Listing of Streets for Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Program (LMIG): FY 2011 – The Georgia Department of Transportation had requested that the City submit its priority listing of streets for their LMIG program for FY 2011. The DOT is to review the list to determine the surface condition and prioritize which streets should be resurfaced first. City Manager Addleton explained that the list would need to be submitted to DOT no later than July 31, 2010 to be qualified for funding. Motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the list as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed by all Council Members present.

Consider Revisions to the State Highway System in the City of Cairo, Grady County – City Manager Addleton explained to the Council that he had met with GDOT Commissioner Smith earlier in the year to discuss the possibility of the City taking over a portion of Broad Street in hopes of the city being awarded a grant to begin work on the Downtown Streetscape Project. Due to the uncertainty of being awarded the grant, Addleton believed that it was not in the City's best interest to take over Broad Street at this time. Motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to deny the revisions to the state highway system. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed by all Council Members present.

Consider Finance Report for the Month of May, 2010 – Councilman Douglas explained that the finance committee was not prepared to approve the report as there were some questions that needed to be answered. Approval of the report is to be considered at the next meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1.) A Street Resurfacing Master Plan was presented. Addleton went over the list and requested feedback from the Council.
- 2.) The Elevated Water Tank bid will hopefully be awarded in September so that work can begin in the winter.
- 3.) The new Council Chambers are nearing completion, and the August 9th meeting should be held there. An open house will be held in the near future in conjunction with the Historical Society.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Cloud informed City Manager Addleton that Community Services Director Mitchell would be meeting with him regarding a coping issue in the Cairo Cemetery.

Councilman Douglas requested that the Police Department patrol the Post Office parking lot and issue citations to those who park illegally along the curb.

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Councilman Gwaltney requested a temporary fix to the potholes located along 12th Avenue NW.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:35 p.m. motion was made by Councilman Cloud and seconded by Councilman Gwaltney to enter into executive session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (4)) and to consult with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2). At 6:50 p.m. the session was closed and there was no action taken as result of the executive session.

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**SANDRA PEARCE
ASST. CITY CLERK**

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