

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 10, 2009

The August 10, 2009 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Pro Tem Ernest W. Cloud, Jr. presiding. Present were Council Members James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Mayor Richard VanLandingham and City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman were out of town. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee, and Human Resources Director Carolyn Meades. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Cloud.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 27, 2009 Regular Meeting. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Ordinance to Adopt Floodplain Management Measures. (Ordinance was introduced at the June 27th meeting). After review, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Personnel Policy Amendment – Employee Vacation. Human Resources Director Meades presented the revised vacation proposal from the Personnel Committee which also showed a comparison of vacation hours from five other cities. The proposal for newly-hired employees was for a maximum of 80 hours annually, earned in monthly increments, for the first 12 months of employment. Employees with 1-4 years would receive 96 vacation hours annually, 5-9 years was 120 hours, 10-19 years at 144 hours, and 20+ years at 160 hours. The plan would change from an arrears policy to an “earn as you go” policy with employees earning a certain number of hours each month based on years of service and anniversary date. After gathering information from department heads, Mrs. Meades did not believe that the budget would be greatly impacted by the changes. Council Members discussed, with Councilman Douglas stating that he felt going from zero to 96 hours for the first year was a big jump in a short period of time, given the current economic situation. He was not sure what the financial impact would actually be to the budget, but in the Police Department alone it would be \$16,000 to \$20,000. Councilman Gwaltney, a member of the Personnel Committee, stated that after looking over the proposal and comparing it with other cities, he would suggest 80 hours for 2 to 4 years of service, 96 hours for years 5-9, 120 hours for years 10-20, and 21+ years at 144 hours to put Cairo more in line with other cities. Councilman Thornton referred to Timken’s policy and suggested 40 hours for new hires, 80 hours for 1-9 years, 120 hours for 10-20 years, and 160 hours for 21+ years. Councilman Douglas suggested 40 hours for the first year of employment, 60 hours for the second year, and leaving the balance of the tiers for further study, with the exception of the four week level which he did not recommend in the the proposal since it had previously been eliminated several years ago. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to postpone action and send the proposal back to the committee for re-evaluation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

NEW BUSINESS:

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November 3, 2009 General Election – Appointments. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to appoint City Clerk Carolyn Lee as 2009 Municipal Election Superintendent, Chief Municipal Registrar, and Absentee Ballot Clerk; as well as to appoint Asst. City Clerk Sandra Pearce and Customer Service Representative Carol Boyd as Deputy Absentee Ballot Clerks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Site and Agreement with Observer. City Manager Addleton advised that Mr. Mike Vise of the National Weather Service in Tallahassee had requested the City to participate in providing climatological data to them. They had proposed using the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant as a site to locate their equipment to gather temperature and rainfall data on a daily basis, to be reported through their website. They expected it to take less than one minute of time each day for City personnel to perform the task. Reporting seven days a week would not be required; however, City personnel checked on the status of the WWTP on a seven-day basis and could provide the service. He recommended approval of the agreement with the National Service in order to provide reliable and stable information. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

4th Ave., SW Curbing and Paving Project (11th St., SW to Highway 111). City Manager Addleton reported that City forces had piped the ditches and installed culvert to capture storm water and had been monitoring effectiveness of the project. Due to a large amount of storm water runoff from Washington Middle School and surrounding areas in cases of heavy rains, it had become obvious that curbing needed to be installed to direct water to the gutters. Due to the severe elevation changes, it was projected that fourteen (14) inlets would be needed. The maximum total cost of curb and gutter work and resurfacing was \$61,225.00 (Stuckey Construction quote - \$36,225.00 for curb and gutter work and \$25,000 for the paving quote). Construction costs could be paid from 2008 SPLOST - Miscellaneous Street and Drainage Improvements. Mayor Pro Tem Cloud noted that piping needed to be done on 8th, 9th, and 10th Sts., SW for the water to flow properly, as well as something done to divert the water from the football field. Various options to solve the drainage issues were discussed including digging out the ditch and piping storm water to 2nd Ave., SW or asking the School Board to install a detention pond. It was suggested that the storm water drainage engineer be consulted for help. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the curbing and paving (\$61,225.00) of 4th Ave., SW. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

City Manager's Report:

- 1.) Reported on power outage the previous Saturday that was caused by a crop duster plane accident and the response made by various City departments.
- 2.) Advised that the 6th Ave., SE drainage project was completed in time for the opening day of school on the previous Friday.
- 3.) Informed Council that concrete had been poured at the 7th Ave., SE drainage project which should be completed in three to four weeks.
- 4.) Advised that Georgia Department of Transportation had recommended the 17th Ave., NW resurfacing project for stimulus funding.
- 5.) Reported that there had been a low water pressure problem earlier in the afternoon due to a high service pump going out, and the pump failure was being investigated.

With regard to the power outage, Councilman Douglas inquired as to whether the City could

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file a claim for the expenses incurred as a result of the crop duster accident. Mayor Pro Tem Cloud advised that he had already requested Utility Dept. personnel to compile information on the costs.

REPORTS: None

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Thornton asked that a grate be placed on a drain at 4th Ave. & 10th St., NW. He also requested street repair at the intersection of 6th Ave. and 10th St., NW and also at 4th St. & 4th Ave., NW.

Councilman Gilliard asked if it would help to contact legislators regarding the 17th Ave., NW Project, with City Manager advising that it would be included on a list of projects presented to the Governor.

Councilman Douglas noted that mowing still needed to be done, particularly at the ditch on MacIvor between 26th & 27th Sts., NE. He inquired regarding the side-arm mower that had been ordered and was informed that it should be delivered soon.

Mayor Pro Tem Cloud asked that drainage issues at New Corinth Church be checked, as water ran toward the Church and settled into the lime rock rather than going to the manhole. He requested resurfacing around the grate on the driveway. He reported that since the ditch was fixed on 3rd, pipes on 4th were not large enough to handle the water. He asked that department heads be directed to send employees to assist other departments in need of help during situations such as the one that occurred with the power outage on Saturday. He requested that City radios and cell phones be evaluated for effectiveness during power outages such as that on Saturday. In conclusion, he asked that night watchmen be furnished a hardcopy list of the Mayor and Council's phone numbers, etc. in order to provide them with information during power outages.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

ERNEST W. CLOUD, JR.
MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK