

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 10, 2015

The August 10, 2015 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Energy Services Director Rod Prince, and Fire Chief Bill Schafer. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – July 27, 2015. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Bids for Purchase of Fire Truck. Councilman Douglas reported that, in their meeting the Finance Committee had discussed the cost of the truck and how to pay for it, as well as the consequences of moving the purchase out one year. With regard to the specifications for the truck, Chief Schafer stated that, while Rosenbauer had helped with spec and component preparation, there were no specs that all three bidders could not meet. When asked if the truck needed to be ordered now, he responded that a backup truck was needed to maintain the current ISO rating and might even be a factor in helping to improve the rating; however he could not guarantee that. The current No. 1 truck would become the No. 2 truck. Financing had been looked at again, with a recommendation to take \$300,000 marked for streetscape lighting and signals to put toward the truck and also to move part of street resurfacing from 2017 out to 2018. The streetscape items would be paid for out of the Municipal Competitive Trust Fund, and only about two and one-half miles of streets would be paved. Atty. Lehman asked how a better ISO rating would affect insurance premiums, with Chief Schafer responding that it would have the most impact on commercial properties. He added that it would take about a year to receive the truck after being ordered, and the “custom” truck would provide 10 more years of service and include more safety features, better functionality/versatility, including high-pressure foam application, and a lighting upgrade for nighttime firefighting. It would be Rosenbauer’s liability until it was delivered to Cairo. To delay the purchase of the truck would also result in increased costs when ordered. After discussion, motion to approve the truck purchase from Rosenbauer at a cost of \$448,000 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. It was clarified that the cost was \$448,000, not \$449,000, as shown on one of the documents. It was also noted that there would not be any up-front payments, an option that was discussed at a previous meeting. Chief Schafer added that, if the company was to go bankrupt, the City would own the chassis.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - Rezoning Request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential) to C-1A (Restricted Office-Institutional District) – Vacant lot adjacent to 1710 S. Broad Street – Tax Map 54, Parcel 32 – Owner Briland Construction Company (Magnolia Place) – Applicant/Owner, Jerry “Jay” L. McDaniel, III. Mr. McDaniel outlined his plans to add a 3rd wing onto the building and to move the parking onto the parcel.

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REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 10, 2015

(Both the Cairo Planning Commission and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission recommended approval of the rezoning). After review, motion to approve the rezoning was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Setting the Final 2015 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate. After review, motion to set the 2015 millage at 8.306 net mills was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Introduction of Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2015. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next regular meeting.

Introduction of Ordinance to Amend Article I, Entitled “In General” of Chapter 20 Captioned “Traffic” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cairo, Georgia to create a four-way stop at the intersection of Adams Ave., SW and 8th St., SW. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next regular meeting.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance (Overgrowth) at Brookwood Dr., SE - C28-59 – Daniel Ashley Hobbs, aka Daniel Whitfield, owner. After review, motion to abate the nuisance was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance (Leaning Dead Tree) at 820 5th St., NE – C26-37 - Jason Harris, owner. City Manager Addleton advised that the tree was now on the ground and not a hazard, but he was not aware of plans for removal; therefore, motion to abate the nuisance, if it became necessary, was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Departmental Reports: Reviewed

Energy Services Director, Rod Prince. (Utilities Afterhours). Director Prince presented detailed information on the new after-hours call-out plan in association with the City of Thomasville taking the after-hours calls (4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on weekdays, weekends, and holidays) and dispatching the needed personnel. The plan would eliminate two full-time employees and one part-time employee who were given the opportunity to transfer to a locate crew or other open positions with the City. Funds had to be spent initially to set up the plan which included a security system with surveillance video viewable by the Thomasville Call Center, installation of a remote gate, and a phone installed at the warehouse that would call Thomasville when picked up. Work orders would be printed out on a printer to be picked up by the on-call personnel responding. Each morning, the Call Center would print a log of calls and information from the previous night. Director Prince reported that it had cost the City \$122,000 annually to provide its own night crew, but Thomasville would charge only \$18,000 per year for its services. The \$100,000 savings would go toward setting up a dedicated two-man locate crew, thereby relieving several other employees and trucks from having to go out to locate various utilities. It was suggested that a radio also be provided to Thomasville. City Manager Addleton commended Director Prince for his work in getting the plan up and running.

2.) City Manager Addleton:

- Reported on DDA training held in Cairo last week.

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 10, 2015

- Explained some additional requirements to be met to obtain renewal of a 5-year wastewater plant permit.
- Paving, backfilling of curbs, and raising of manholes was in process on the 8th Street, SW Project, with completion expected by the end of the month.
- Robert & Co. had sent Streetscape Plan documents to DOT. It was anticipated that bids would be awarded in December, with work to begin in 2016.

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Cloud asked if the driveways on 8th Street would be paved, or if the rocks would be left there, with City Manager Addleton responding that he believed those that were paved previously would be paved again, and those that were dirt would have rocks.
- Councilman Thornton reported that the curb was broken again at 4th St., NW and North Broad St.
- Councilman Gwaltney reported a problem with debris washing up from the Pickle Stream into a yard in the Buchanan area.
- Councilman Cloud inquired about a special event request from Friendship House of Prayer, with City Manager Addleton responding that it was to be on the next agenda.
- Councilman Cloud asked again about the Crossing Guards being denied unemployment benefits during the summer. Atty. Lehman responded that their jobs did not exist during the summer, so benefits were denied by Dept. of Labor. He added that it made no difference whether they were employed by the City or by the Board of Education. City Manager Addleton reported that three new crossing guards had been hired.
- Councilman Douglas brought up the high grass issue at the house on MacIvor Dr.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:10 p.m., Councilman Douglas made motion to go into Executive Session to meet with Attorney Lehman to discuss a legal matter (pending or potential lawsuit, settlement, claim, administrative proceeding or other judicial action brought against or by the city, or any officer or employee of the city, or in which the city or any officer or employee may be directly involved); (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)). Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Present for the session were Mayor Burns; Mayor Pro Tem Gilliard; Council Members Cloud, Douglas, Gwaltney, and Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Addleton, City Attorney Lehman, and City Clerk Lee.

At 7:25 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Cloud to go out of Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

There was no action taken as a result of the session.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK