

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 11, 2008

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2008 in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas, Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., 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, Executive Asst. Donna Young, Finance Director Cecil Rash, and Fire Chief Donald Towne, along with a group of Fire Department employees. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: Councilman Gilliard gave the Invocation.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Dylan Dixon. Mr. Dixon was recognized by Fire Chief Towne and the Mayor and Council and was presented a plaque and medal of honor for his act of bravery by saving the life of an elderly neighbor when her sofa caught fire. He was also presented a certificate for a pizza party from a management team of Domino's Pizza.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the July 28, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, with all Council Members voting in favor of approval.

DELEGATIONS:

a. Shane Kelsey, Planner – Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC). Report on Total Maximum Daily Load (The maximum amount of pollutant that can be in a stream and not exceed threshold). Mr. Kelsey provided information on a TMDL Contract with the Environmental Protection Division to gather information regarding non-point sources of pollution with regard to water quality standards. He presented a CD containing the Georgia State Water Plan, a copy of the last TMDL Plan Status Report, guidebooks, model ordinances, and various other documents. He advised of a TMDL Advisory Group Meeting that had been scheduled, with City Manager Addleton reporting that he and Mr. Hal Wiedeman of Wiedeman and Singleton would be attending.

b. Charlie Johnson & David Malcolm – Wood+Partners, Inc. – Proposal for Master Plan Services for Downtown (\$20,500.00). In addition to Councilman Cloud, Cairo Downtown Development Authority Members Scott Higginbotham and Debbi Miller were present. Mr. Higginbotham reported that the Authority had turned duties of the Cultural Center over to the Chamber of Commerce and also that early stages of renovation were being done at the center to accommodate the location of cultural-type businesses. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Malcolm, whose company specializes in urban design, presented a proposal for master planning services for the downtown area. The scope of work would include a general assessment of downtown Cairo along with a conceptual master plan and illustrations with recommended land uses and development types for the area, incorporating streetscape treatment and open space details. Their presentation included views of project designs in various cities. When asked if proposals from other designers had been solicited, Mr. Higginbotham responded that they had not because it was not known exactly what was needed. Authority members expressed their desire to partner with the firm, with Councilman Cloud also noting that they had worked out the funding source. Council Members asked questions and discussed, noting that another person formally from Cairo had offered assistance in a project of this type. It was suggested that, in the future, proposals should be solicited. Mr. Johnson, who grew up in Cairo, and Mr. Malcolm both expressed their passion for the project and recommended a visit to Swainsboro or some of their other project sites to observe their designs. They also offered assistance to help secure grants.

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 11, 2008

SPECIAL EVENTS:

a. Request from Ruby McClinton, Youth Director – Youth Chapter No. 367 Order of Eastern Star. Ms. McClinton requested use of the Holder Park Youth Center on September 20, 2008 for the annual King and Queen Contest and Talent Showcase. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing on Request by Property Owner John Stracka for Closing of a Portion of Rest St., SW. There were no public comments, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Request by Property Owner John Stracka for Closing of a Portion of Rest St., SW. City Manager Addleton reported that only the yellow highlighted portion of Rest Street bordering parcel 102 was being considered for closing and deeding to adjoining property owner, John Stracka. The decision of what to do with the balance of the street located between parcels 101 and 104 was to be determined at a later date. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the abandonment and deeding of the highlighted portion of the street to Mr. Stracka. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Agreement between the City of Cairo and Cal Lauder to Supply Water to Wood Ridge Subdivision located on Highway 93 North. City Manager Addleton reported that the developer had agreed to pay for installation of the 6” water line up to the southeast corner of the subdivision, to include cost of materials, engineering, and labor. The charge for water usage would be doubled as the property was located outside the city limits and not contiguous for annexation. Cable, internet, and telephone services, and possibly natural gas, would be available to each building within the subdivision. Council discussed the plan to install fire hydrants along the line, noting that they would be located outside the City where only County fire trucks would be responding; and that this might give residents along the line a false sense of security. The developer would be installing hydrants inside the subdivision, but there would be no way to control their use or to bill for water used. After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the agreement as written. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 327 3rd Ave., SW – Stephanie Davis c/o Jacquelyn Hadley-Sweatt - C14-78 (Overgrowth, Abandoned/Vacant Structure). After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the resolution to abate. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Task Order No. 3 – Runway 31 Approach Clearing at the Cairo Municipal Airport. (\$26,575). D. A. Jones Engineering would be providing the engineering services and preparing the necessary documents for advertisement of bids for clearing of the trees. Funding would be provided 95% by FAA, 2.5% by GDOT, and 2.5% by the City. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the task order. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Finance Report for May 2008. Councilman Douglas stated that he still had some concerns

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 11, 2008

with the year-to-date and month-to-date figures in the report but made motion to approve it as the actual numbers were acceptable. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

REPORTS: Code Enforcement Report – July 2008

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

With regard to laptops for the Council, City Manager Addleton stated that he had obtained three quotes and preferred using the existing computers in the beginning. Council discussed and agreed to move slowly by having three laptops programmed to be alternated and shared.

City Manager Addleton reported that installation of 18 to 20 test telephone services would begin the following day.

He informed Council that the Federal Aviation Administration had designated Georgia Department of Transportation to become a 10th Block Grant State, adding that he would be attending a meeting at the Albany Airport.

He also reported that 15th Ave., NW on the east side of Highway 84 had been closed and curbing was installed.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Douglas requested that someone brief the Council on the recent e-mail issues at the next meeting.

Councilman Thornton asked that Legion Blvd. and Harlem Drive be mowed.

Councilman Gilliard stated that he had left several messages on the CNS phone, and his calls were not returned. Councilmen Cloud and Thornton were to discuss the matter at the next CNS meeting.

Councilman Cloud requested that the Thursby property on 3rd St., SE across from Southside School be checked for nuisance abatement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor VanLandingham advised that a session was needed to discuss personnel (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (6)), with motion made by Councilman Cloud to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Present for the Session were Mayor VanLandingham, Council Members Cloud, Douglas, Gilliard, Gwaltney, and Thornton; City Attorney Lehman; City Manager Addleton; City Clerk Lee; and Exec. Asst. Young.

At 7:25 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to go out of 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 Session.

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

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 11, 2008

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK**