

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 11, 2014

The August 11, 2014 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 Lannis Thornton, Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., and Robert L. Gwaltney. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, and Human Resource Director Carolyn Robinson. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Thornton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – July 28, 2014. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – Notice of 2014 Ad Valorem Property Tax Increase – Tentative Net Millage Rate of 8.28 Mills. There were no public comments made, so the hearing was closed.

Public Hearing – Alcoholic Beverage Application – Los Reyes Grill – Beer, Wine, and Liquor Retail Pouring – 117 Broad Street – Jose Carlos Ruiz – Applicant. There were no public comments made, so the hearing was closed.

Approval of Alcoholic Beverage Application – Los Reyes Grill – Beer, Wine, and Liquor Retail Pouring – 117 Broad Street – Carlos Ruiz – Applicant. After review, motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Proposed Cemetery Lot Cost Increase and Addition of Columbarium/Cremation Crypt. After a comparison with other out-of-town cemeteries, City Manager Addleton recommended that cemetery lot sale costs be increased as follows: Crestview and Cairo Cemeteries – from \$150 to \$200 per grave space; and Forest Lawn – from \$200 to \$250, to become effective October 1, 2014. Lots in Greenwood Cemetery had all been sold previously. The recording fee would remain at \$10 per deed (or the amount charged by the Superior Court Clerk at the time of recording the deed). Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the rate increases as proposed, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

It was also recommended that a columbarium or cremation crypt be located in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Estimated costs for a columbarium, foundation, and two benches would be approximately \$10,000 which could be funded from the Special Cemetery Fund. Councilman Cloud had also worked on the proposal, noting that there was a growing demand for cremation crypts. He explained some of the procedures for columbarium sales, recommending that the same engraver be used for all the crypt plaques

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to achieve uniformity. The sample of the columbarium presented would hold two cremains in each crypt, with the number of crypts determined by the size of the unit. It was also proposed that the cost of each crypt be set at \$500. It was noted that the placement area would need to be decided, as well as rules and regulations drawn up. It was also suggested that any proceeds over the cost of the unit and installation be placed in a reserve account to be used to maintain the columbarium in the future. After discussion, motion to approve the installation of a columbarium at Forest Lawn Cemetery was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Councilman Cloud noted that there were still spaces available in Section A, but getting the spaces marked in Section B should be bid out so that the roads could be designated for paving in the spring.

Wellness Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP). City Manager Addleton reported that a section had been added to the plan since it was submitted at the last meeting to allow the City to reserve the right to randomly retest members of the Wellness MERP, throughout the plan year, to ensure continued adherence to the health standards and qualifications for reimbursement(s). The current deductible would increase from \$500 to \$1,500 per year, beginning January 1st. Employees had already been screened in four categories to determine the amount of credits they would receive on their deductible (\$250 per category, with a maximum of \$1,000). Councilman Douglas stated that he understood the credit for deductibles would be applied at the first of the year, but the information that was presented referred to “reimbursements”. He asked if the employee was to pay the \$1,500 and then get reimbursed, with City Manager Addleton responding that the credits would be given in January, and deductibles would reset every January 1st. Councilman Douglas again voiced concerns regarding the lack of accountability in the plan, noting that employees could get their medication and receive the deductible credit, but there was nothing in the plan to ensure that they actually took the medication. City Manager Addleton noted that the intent was not to police employees, but to make them aware of their health problems so they could make the right choices. Director Robinson pointed out that the plan provider would have access to the pharmacy records and could monitor refills, adding that employees had already received their screening results and would be sent letters regarding their deductibles. After discussion, Councilman Thornton made motion to approve the plan, seconded by Councilman Gilliard who commented that it could be tried for a year to see how it worked. Motion passed 3-2 with Council Members Thornton, Gilliard, and Gwaltney voting in favor and Council Members Douglas and Cloud voting against.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) City Manager Addleton’s Report:

- Reported on the burning of two dilapidated structures at the LAS site.
- Advised that he had presented a proposal to the County for CNS internet and phone service.
- Announced that an open house had been set for Monday at 1:00 p.m. at the new Five Star Credit Union location.
- A Plant Vogtle tour had been planned for May 5, 2015, leaving on May 4th to attend.

2.) Reports from Mayor & Council:

- Councilman Cloud asked that the Bldg. Dept. send letters to owners of overgrown lots (including where three houses were torn down on Hwy 111).
- Councilman Cloud will mark three dead cedar trees at old Cairo Cemetery that need to be taken down.

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- Councilman Cloud asked why Channel 98 was not working, with City Manager Addleton reporting that the station (WCTV) had an equipment malfunction.
- Councilman Cloud reported that Channel 6 (Atlanta news) had no sound for several days – only background music. City Manager Addleton to check on reason.
- Councilman Cloud reported that the Sunday morning news on Channel 6 used to go off at 9:00, but now goes off at 8:30.
- Councilman Cloud reported that the chain across the service road at Holder Park was down and asked that it be put back up.
- Councilman Thornton asked if Channel 71 would start up this week, with City Manager Addleton advising that it would and that there would be an ad in the newspaper.
- Councilman Cloud asked when the cable boxes (digital migration) were to be given out, with City Manager Addleton noting that it would be done along with service calls initially, and then by pick-up in Sept. or Oct. The first box would be free, with a \$1.99 charge per month for each additional box.
- Councilman Cloud asked if the Boys and Girls Club was on Dish network, with City Manager Addleton advising that they were not and that the satellite dish located there was an old one and not in use.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK