

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 14, 2017

The August 14, 2017 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 Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Council Members James H. Douglas, Jerry L. Cox, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman was out of town. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Jordan Barela, were also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Thornton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting - July 24, 2017. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

Gary and Verna Grant were present requesting a four-way stop at the intersection of 4th Ave., NW and 2nd St., NW. Ms. Grant stated that she owned a preschool at that corner and had previously talked with City Manager Addleton and Councilman Thornton about the traffic matter, adding that the fence around her business would not stop a car from coming through to where the children played. She believed that a 4-way stop would cause traffic to re-route around the intersection. City Manager Addleton advised that he had spoken with Chief Sandefur who had looked at the area which was an arterial/main connector road between Broad St. and 4th St., NW. Councilman Cloud noted that traffic would have to go around to get to the Hot Bed area if a 4-way stop was installed. He made motion to deny the request, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing: Solid Waste Management Program – Revised Assessment of Corrective Measures; Jim Smith and Keith Reeves, TTL. There were no comments from the public during the public hearing. After the hearing was closed, Keith Reeves with TTL presented an update on the corrective action activities. Data from the soil-vapor extraction (SVE) system that had been installed on the east side of the Landfill showed that it was working as intended by shrinking the plume. The City had purchased properties on the east side which were a part of the plume area, but no waste was to be placed in the expanded boundary. The plan now was to add wells on the west side which City Manager Addleton noted would involve the County and was in the 2018 budget. A milestone schedule for the remedial measure was required which included an SVE system expansion plan, establishment of a well protection zone, and dates and reports for operation of the expanded system.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Agreement. Council reviewed the agreement with Taylor Waste Services, Inc. that incorporated the revisions that were discussed in the July 18th workshop. Mr. Chris Taylor and Attorney Joshua Bell were present at the meeting. Councilman Douglas asked about the requirement for residential customers to have their cans out

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by 5:00 a.m. on collection day, with Mr. Taylor responding that they would not actually begin collection until around 7:00 a.m. The size of trees and stumps to be picked up was discussed, with City Manager Addleton advising that if the Council decided to change the ordinance, Mr. Taylor would be consulted. Regarding limbs falling in the street, he recommended keeping the knuckle boom for the City's use in cases such as that. Mr. Taylor added that his equipment would also be available to help the City in emergency situations. Councilman Cloud asked Mr. Taylor if he would be picking up the new cans at the cemeteries and on Broad Street downtown, with Mr. Taylor replying that he would pick those up once per week. Councilman Cox asked who would staff the knuckle boom if the City kept it, with City Manager Addleton responding that it would be someone from a department assigned to storm clean-up. It was noted that taking the truck off the list would decrease the payment amount from \$500,000 to \$490,000. Councilman Cox felt that taking the truck off the list of equipment should have been discussed before the final agreement was presented and didn't like making a change in open meeting. He stated that he would like it to be a true statement, addressed in public that the City would not participate, or be expected to participate, in any capital investment with Taylor Waste, Inc., such as a transfer point or new truck. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the agreement, which was to begin September 1st, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Mr. Booker Gainor of 365 Humble Ave., SW, a member of the audience, asked if any other City utilities would be increased and was informed that the City would still bill and collect for the waste services, but no other rates were affected by this privatization.

700 Mhz Radio System Agreement - Administer, Support, Maintain, and Repair Radio System shared with Various Agencies (77 City Radios – Cost \$23,879.15 per year). City Manager Addleton had reviewed the agreement with Atty. Lehman, and no issues were found. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cox to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Set a Proposed 2017 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate and Advertise the Five-Year History. City Manager Addleton presented the Tax Digest figures along with four options for setting a millage rate. All options, including the roll-back rate, computed tax amounts under that collected in 2016 and under the current budgeted amount of \$1,618,000. The roll-back rate (7.366) would be the only option that would not be considered an increase. Due to the re-assessment of residential properties, there had been a significant increase in residential values only. Councilman Douglas had computed various assessed values at two different millage rates to show the tax dollar increase for individual homeowners, as well as the effective millage increase for each property. He added that, because only residential property had been re-assessed, and not commercial and farm also, the homeowners would bear the brunt of the increase, with some taxpayers paying several hundred dollars more in taxes in 2017. Councilman Cox stated that he could support the roll-back rate, but did not want to see an increase even if some budgeted items had to be pushed-out. He inquired if the savings from outsourcing garbage and trash was reflected in the budget. City Manager Addleton advised that it was not in the General Fund Budget. Mr. Laverne Whigham, a member of the audience, asked what was driving the increase. City Manager Addleton explained that the formula set by the State for computing the millage rate required the re-assessment amount to be included in the computation which drove the roll-back rate down. Councilman Douglas made motion to set the tentative rate at 7.50 mills and schedule the hearings and advertise the proper notices; and, meanwhile, go back and review the budget. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

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OTHER BUSINESS: Councilman Douglas made motion to take the \$490,000 (\$500,000 less \$10,000 for the knuckle boom truck) from Taylor Waste and pay off the amount owed on any of the equipment, and place the proceeds in a Garbage and Trash Enterprise Fund Reserve Account. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

- 1.) **Departmental Reports for the Month of July 2017.** Reports were reviewed, with Councilman Cox asking if the Police Dept. was currently fully-staffed, with City Manager Addleton responding that two officer positions were not filled.
- 2.) **Fire Department** – Fire Chief Bill Schafer informed the Council that all keys to businesses currently kept in the Fire truck would be returned to owners on January 1, 2018 due to a liability concern, and he had also mailed information to owners regarding Knox boxes that they could obtain to put at their place of business. That type of box would allow Fire personnel to enter a building with one master key that would fit all Knox boxes installed in the City.
- 3.) **City Manager:**
 - Installation of the AMI meters was going well, with 35 to 40 meters installed daily, and would take six to eight months to complete due to some rain delays.
 - Upon inquiry of when the mast arms would be shipped, it was learned that the anticipated date was now September 8th.
- 4.) **Reports from Mayor and Council:**
 - Councilman Thornton reported that vines had taken over on 6th Ave., NW and were also growing on lines over the road on 8th St., NW.
 - Councilman Cox had received a call from a lady whose gas meter had been replaced, and the notice was left on the front door which she never used, so she didn't know what the problem was. He also reported illegal turns being made from Hwy 84 West onto 10th Ave., NW. He also asked about the carbon monoxide problem with Police Explorer vehicles and was told that Cairo's vehicles are equipped with detectors.
 - Councilman Cloud reported a problem between two neighbors regarding overgrown shrubbery between their two lots and wanted it referred to Attorney Lehman when he returned. He reported overgrown shrubbery and an abandoned car at 627 Madison Lane. He advised that a crepe myrtle needed trimming on 4th St., NE near Pizza Hut. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the shrubs at Hwy. 84 and Livestock Pavilion Rd. caused a sight problem as well. Councilman Cloud referred to a trip taken the previous week to Plant Vogel and a tour of the police station at Centerville. He made motion for City Manager Addleton to request RFQ's for architectural services for preliminary drawings for a Police Station building. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

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

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ATTEST:

APPROVED:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR