

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 17, 2017**

The August 17, 2017 Special Called Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street with Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. presiding. 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, was also in attendance.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

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

The special meeting was called to re-consider setting the tentative 2017 ad valorem tax millage rate. Figures had been adjusted from those presented on August 14, 2017 upon which a tentative rate had been set (7.50 mills) that would reflect a millage increase. With the adjusted roll-back rate currently at 7.691 mills, the projected revenue would still be less than the budgeted amount of \$1,618,000 by \$224,458.73, but would not be considered a millage rate increase or have to be advertised as an increase. Councilman Douglas had prepared the same spreadsheets as presented at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with two new millage rates, 7.691 (roll-back rate) and 7.500. Council Members discussed and felt that they should do everything possible to hold the taxes down since all residential property had been re-assessed and most taxpayers would pay more taxes in 2017, with commercial and agricultural property owners who were not re-assessed getting a break. They agreed that something would have to be cut in the 2017-18 budget, but noted that keeping the millage at the roll-back would be the only thing in their power to do to help the City taxpayers. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cox to set the tentative millage rate at the roll-back rate of 7.691 mills and advertise the 5-year history. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Setting the final millage rate was scheduled to be done at the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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**CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK**

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**ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR**