

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 22, 2011

The August 22, 2011 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street, with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. 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 and City Clerk Carolyn B. 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 Gilliard.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting – August 8, 2011.** Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**DELEGATIONS:**

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

1.) Cairo High School 2011 Homecoming Parade – Thursday, October 27, 2011 starting at 5:00 p.m. in front of First Methodist Church, proceeding north on Broad Street and ending at the Library. After review, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2.) Mrs. Sue Isaac: Request for Special Event Permit – Family Reunion Block Party on September 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m. at 660 16<sup>th</sup> St., SW; blocking of 16<sup>th</sup> St., SW from 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., SW to Legion Blvd. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Application for Alcoholic Beverage License - Change of Ownership at El Tarasco to Daniel Cruz Bautista – 351 9<sup>th</sup> St., NE – Beer, Retail Consumption on Premises.** After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Introduction of Ordinance to Amend Article II Entitled “Speed” of Chapter 20, Entitled “Traffic” of the Cairo Code of Ordinances.** The ordinance was proposed at the request of the Department of Transportation in order to update the list of roads in the City’s traffic ordinance to include the recently annexed area of Highway 84 West. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Introduction of Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of Cairo Georgia by Amending Chapter 14, Captioned “Occupational Taxes and Regulations,” (Add “Sweepstakes Parlors, Internet Cafes, and Similar Establishments”).** The ordinance was proposed to regulate location and operation of these type businesses to minimize or regulate potential negative secondary effects on the community. The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**City of Cairo’s Current 2011 Tax Digest and 5-year History of Levy.** The proposed gross millage rate was 13.80 mills, less sales tax rollback of 5.72 mills, resulting in a net millage rate of

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8.08 mills which would generate \$1,410,987 in taxes; based on a net digest of \$174,627,136 assessed 40% value. The rate would result in no increase or decrease over last year's roll-back rate but would generate \$17,361 less tax revenue than 2010 due to the decreased assessments. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to advertise the history and proposed levy, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. The final millage rate was scheduled to be set at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **Report from City Manager:**

- 1.) Reported that the \$105,000 Public Service Commission (PSC) fine had been paid; and drills were being planned, both actions being a part of the consent agreement with the PSC.
- 2.) Bids would be opened on September 8<sup>th</sup> for the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Project, with awarding to take place at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 3.) Would learn in a few weeks if the Teresa Edwards CBDG application would be approved.

##### **Reports from Mayor & Council:**

Mayor VanLandingham reported that he had been questioned by several people why the gas prices in Cairo were higher than in surrounding towns. He had been told that local dealers set their prices based on the amount charged by WalMart. He expressed concern, not only for consumers, but for dealer revenue and sales tax revenue. Council discussed, with Councilman Douglas pointing out that the Council had no control over gas prices.

Mayor VanLandingham also reported that the County may be considering a "baggy pants" ordinance. Council discussed, recalling that the issue had been addressed by Council in the past. There was still concern that enforcement would be an issue with the police officers having more important issues to deal with, so they agreed to wait to see what decision was made by the County.

Councilman Cloud asked for a progress report on the installation of security cameras at the Utility Department, with City Manager Addleton responding that quotes for the equipment had been obtained.

Councilman Douglas asked what the estimated construction period would be for the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Project and stated his concern that paving had not already been started, since it would be disruptive for school traffic as well as for area residents. City Manager Addleton stated that buses would need to be re-routed during the construction process.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 6:15 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, to enter into executive session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (4)). The motion was unanimously approved by all Council Members. Cairo Messenger Reporter, Randy Wind, offered a protest to the session if it was dealing with the old post office. Mayor VanLandingham responded that there was something else to be dealt with, and asked what the issue was with the old post office. Mr. Wind asked if the City was going to acquire it, with Mayor VanLandingham responding that it was a possibility. Councilman Douglas disagreed with the Mayor's response that acquirement of the post office by the City was going to be discussed, as he was not going to discuss the matter. Mayor VanLandingham stated that there were two matters to be discussed, and if the Council decided that any matter did not qualify for the session, they would go

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back into regular session. Mr. Wind also protested the Mayor being involved in any discussion regarding the old post office, with Mayor VanLandingham responding that he was the only one that could offer information on the matter. Present in the session were the Mayor, all Council Members, the City Manager, and the City Clerk.

At 6:35 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Thornton to end the session, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, 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:**

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**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**CAROLYN B. LEE  
CITY CLERK**