

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – AUGUST 25, 2014

The August 25, 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 and Asst. City Clerk Sandra Pearce. City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman and City Clerk Carolyn Lee did not attend the meeting. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gilliard.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – August 11, 2014. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Grady County Chamber of Commerce Special Event Request for Christmas Parade – Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Beginning at the Chamber of Commerce and ending at First United Methodist Church – Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Cairo High School Special Event Request for the Homecoming Parade – Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 5:00 pm. – David McCurry, Applicant – Councilman Gilliard left the podium during this item. Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed with Council Members Douglas, Cloud, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor. Councilman Gilliard abstained from voting due to his affiliation with the Board of Education.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – 2014 Property Tax Increase – Council discussed that the tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 8.279 mills, which is an increase of .285 mills. Mrs. Linda Bradshaw, 502 11th Ave. NE, was present for the hearing and explained that she wanted to be educated on the tax billing process. Mayor Burns explained to her that the bill she receives will include the County, City, and Board of Education tax, with Councilman Cloud adding that the assessment notice she had received was only a projected tax amount.

Consider Introduction of Ordinance to Amend Article I Entitled “Greenwood In General” of Chapter 7 Captioned “Cemeteries” of the Code and Ordinances of the City of Cairo, Georgia; So As to Amend the Purchase Price of Lots; To Repeal Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes – The ordinance was introduced and will be considered at the next meeting.

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Consider Introduction of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20, Entitled “Traffic” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cairo, Georgia; To Establish the Effective Date of the Ordinance, To Repeal Ordinances in Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes – The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

Consider City of Cairo Fire Department Burn Program – Fire Chief Bill Schafer was present and explained that the Fire Dept. would like to implement a burn program that would help aid in the nuisance abatement program and would also provide additional training for firefighters. He added that this would be another option for the citizens of Cairo to consider for dilapidated houses. A fee of \$500.00 would be charged for the structures to be burned. Council discussed and inquired about cleanup after the structure was burned and suggested that the fee should potentially include a cleanup cost and give a period of time for this to be done. Chief Schafer was asked to provide more information and bring it back to the next meeting. Councilman Cloud asked the Chief for a guide showing what the fire hydrant colors indicated so that while out riding around they could identify ones that needed to be replaced.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

1.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

Councilman Gilliard asked to be provided departmental reports more often than they had been receiving them.

Councilman Cloud stated that the Railroad needed to be contacted about spikes that were exposed at the tracks at 4th Street, NW. He also added that there is a rotten tree that needs to be removed on 6th Ave. SE between the Southside school nutrition building and the location where the buses exit. He also reported that there were trees at Cairo Cemetery that needed to be marked for removal.

Councilman Douglas reported that he had continued to receive complaints about Pilot Chris Rudd practicing aerobatic flying. Mr. Rudd was at the meeting, and City Manager Addleton asked him to speak regarding the complaints. He stated that the FAA had done an investigation of the situation, and that he was approved to fly. He stated that there had been no evidence found that should stop him from flying and explained that his license had even been put on hold during the investigation. He gave out his phone number (850-766-3756) and asked that anyone with complaints contact him. In closing, he stated that he felt it was his right to fly out of the airport and that he had done nothing wrong.

2.) City Manager Addleton’s Report:

City Manager Addleton presented the Council with Archway minutes. The GEMA mitigation plan had been approved. He also advised the Council that information on the wellness program would be presented to the employees on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Finance Report for the Month of July 2014: Councilman Douglas explained that cash flow had been discussed at the committee meeting, and additional information had been requested. He stated that the issue would be closely monitored until it is resolved. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report as presented, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

SANDRA PEARCE, ASST. CITY CLERK