

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

The September 8, 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, Marketing and Main Street Director Celeste Tyler, and Fire Chief Bill Schafer. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

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

**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 25, 2014.** Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**DELEGATIONS:**

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**1.) Main Street - Downtown Trick or Treating on October 31, 2014 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Main Street Director Celeste Tyler, Applicant.** Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**2.) Syrup City Players Request for Permit to use Davis Park for Their Live Production of Stage Play “Cheaper by the Dozen” on October 3-4, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Jim Ellis, Applicant.** Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Gilliard, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**3.) Special Event Permit for MLK Collaborative: MLK Parade on January 19, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. - Douglas Addison, Applicant.** Motion to approve the event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Hearing - Conditional Use Request for a Community Use/Event Venue, Sec. 22-188 (j) “Other uses similar to the above and compatible with the particular neighborhood and environment as interpreted by the Planning Commission and approved by the Mayor and City Council”, in the Zoning District of C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) – 7 3rd Avenue S. E. – Tax Map C19, Parcel 19 - Brasington Place, LLC, Applicant.** Mrs. Megan Ridenour, who owned the business jointly with her husband, was present and stated that they had renovated and repaired the exterior and first floor of the building and also had plans to renovate the second floor in the future. They wished to use the building for events such as parties, weddings, and receptions. After comments, the public hearing was closed.

**Conditional Use Request for a Community Use/Event Venue, Sec. 22-188 (j) “Other uses similar to the above and compatible with the particular neighborhood and environment as interpreted by the Planning Commission and approved by the Mayor and City Council”, in the Zoning District of C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) – 7 3rd Avenue S. E. – Tax Map C19, Parcel 19 - Brasington Place, LLC, Applicant.** (Both the Cairo Planning Commissions and the

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission recommended approval of the conditional use). Mrs. Ridenour was asked if she had marked off handicap parking spaces. She responded that it had not yet been done but would be finished within a couple of months. She added that she also had a written agreement with Ameris Bank to use their parking lot after hours for overflow parking. After discussion, motion to approve the conditional use was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Public Hearing – 2014 Property Tax Increase.** There were no public comments made, so the hearing was closed.

**Setting the Final 2014 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate.** After consideration, motion to set the 2014 Ad Valorem Tax Millage rate at 8.28 net mills was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Introduction of Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2014.** Ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the next regular meeting.

**Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Article I Entitled “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.** (New Rates Effective 10/1/2014: Cairo, Greenwood, & Crestview, \$200.00 per grave space; Forest Lawn, \$250.00 per grave space). After review, motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Quotes for Construction of 48-Niche Columbarium and Proposed Rules and Guidelines for Forest Lawn Columbarium.** City Manager Addleton reported that three quotes were received for the unit, including delivery charges, installation, and crane rental: **1.)** Faith Funeral Home & Hall Monument Co. of Havana, Fl. - \$18,550.00; **2.)** Gross Vault & Monument Co., Inc. of Thomasville, Ga. - \$15,397.50; and **3.)** Cairo Memorials of Cairo, Ga. - \$13,500.00. The one quote received for the reinforced 6” slab with rebar came from Cairo Memorials for \$1,250.00. The two quotes received for granite benches were: Gross Vault & Monument Co. - \$595.00 each and Cairo Memorials - \$750.00 each. Cairo Memorials was low bidder at \$13,500.00 and the sole bidder on the slab at \$1,250.00. Gross Vault & Monument was low bidder on the benches. City Manager Addleton advised that he could get additional quotes on the slab work if needed. Council Members discussed the quotes, noting that even though Cairo Memorials was high bidder on the benches, it was a local company. It was also suggested that it might be better for the same person to do the slab work and the installation. The proposed Rules and Guidelines for the niches were also presented. Each niche would be sold for \$500.00 plus a deed recording fee, with a \$300 cost for marking the niche each time a name was placed on the door. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the purchase from Cairo Memorials for the columbarium, slab, and benches totaling \$16,250.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and passed, with Council Members Douglas, Gilliard, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor and Councilman Cloud abstaining from voting.

**Cairo Fire Department Burn Program.** Fire Chief Schafer was present and advised that he had made one revision to the burn agreement that required the property owner to dispose of any remains of the structure within 30 days after the burn. With regard to learning the identity of a current legal property owner, City Attorney Lehman advised having the title checked if there was any question as to ownership. After discussion, motion to approve the burn program was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

### OTHER BUSINESS:

#### Reports:

1.) **Main Street Presentation - Celeste Tyler.** Mrs. Tyler delivered an informative and comprehensive power point presentation on the status of the Main Street Program, with plans for construction to start on South Broad Street in early 2015. She also reported on the CNS Marketing Program and the Clean and Beautiful Program. Councilman Gilliard asked how soon application could be made for the North Broad Street Phase, with City Manager Addleton advising that applications were not currently being accepted due to the grant program being revised, but he had requested Robert & Company to help with that application process when it opens up.

2.) **Departmental Reports:** Council Members reviewed the various departmental reports, with Councilman Douglas commenting on the number of medical assists listed on the Fire Dept. Report. Chief Schafer explained the reason for the assists, adding that if the assistance to EMS became a problem, he would address the matter with them. Councilman Douglas requested that the assists involving lifting be broken out on future reports. Also discussed were the water reports, with City Manager Addleton reporting that there had been a rash of leaks recently, and some were harder to find than others, also noting that more water had been sold recently than in a long while.

#### 3.) City Manager Addleton's Report:

- Advised that public hearings had been scheduled to consider rezoning on the Hadden and Cairo Tire properties on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., NE.
- Fire Dept. invitation for the 9/11 Memorial Program, Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- Invitation for Prayer Breakfast at Pickle Patch Deli, Thursday at 7:00 a.m.

#### 4.) Mayor & Council Reports:

- Councilman Cloud asked Atty. Lehman to advise if an applicant wanting to replace a mobile home located on M. L. King at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., SW had to go through the whole process over to do so.
- Councilman Cloud asked that the south end of Parker's Mill Creek and the Pickle Stream be cleared of weeds.
- Councilman Cloud asked what the regulations were for having yard sales, noting that one particular person with a trailer would set up somewhere in the City every weekend, and asked that it be checked on.
- Councilman Cloud requested that the sound on Channel 6, which was muffled in his area, be checked on, with City Manager Addleton advising that he knew that Thomasville had had an amplifier problem but would check on it.
- C. Cloud reported that the news was coming on WSB Channel 2 from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., with City Manager Addleton responding that he would request again for it to go off at 9:00.

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

#### APPROVED:

#### ATTEST:

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

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**CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK**