

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

The September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas. Present were Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Jerry L. Cox, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. was out of town. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. A large group of City employees was also present. 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 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 22, 2016. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

Mayor Pro Tem Douglas recognized and thanked the large group of City employees who were present for their outstanding service after the recent hurricane. Each Council Member expressed his appreciation, with employees thanking the Council for their support as well.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Special Event Permit for Cairo/Grady Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade - Thursday, December 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m. - Jenny Law, Applicant. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the permit, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Ordinance Amendment Regulating Exterior Signs for Alcohol Package Stores. Attorney Lehman advised that the current City code regulations for package store signs did not allow for an exterior sign to be located off the building. The state law allowed for one non-attached exterior sign to be placed on the property; however, it did not allow it to be illuminated or to advertise alcohol prices. Council discussed the amendment and requested that the wording “un-illuminated” be added to describe the signs in order to comply with state law. It was noted in discussion that some neighboring cities did not enforce the “non-illumination” nor the “non-advertising of prices” on the signs.

Introduction of Ordinance to Amend Division 2 Entitled “Special Provisions” of Chapter 4 Entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” of the Code of Ordinances (See above agenda item). The ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the September 26th meeting.

Easements on City Property and Rights of Way for MEAG Transmission Line from Downtown #1 Substation to Highway 84 West. City Manager Addleton advised that the proposed compensation for the easements was \$12,811. Councilman Cox asked what the changes

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would be from the previous route to this new route. City Manager Addleton responded that he thought the only change was that the line would now jog around the Harrison ponds rather than across them and be placed along the street instead. Councilman Cox noted that if the line went around the ponds, it looked like poles would have to be added. Council reviewed a sketch of the route, noting that the line would go from 1st Ave., SW, up 4th St., NW, along 7th Ave. behind Azalea Park, up to 11th Ave., NW, east to 12th Ave. and up to 5th St., north to 14th Ave., west to 7th St., and up across EMC property to Highway 84. Council discussed the location of poles, with City Manager Addleton noting that he thought easements had already been obtained from the Harrisons. Atty. Lehman asked if the line would be like the one that was put in on the south side with the larger poles that required more right of way, with Utility Director Rod Prince confirming that they were. Councilman Cox was concerned that the residents understand what was being done, and that there be no encroachments on their property or poles installed across from their driveways. Council Members discussed the route and the addition of some poles. It was pointed out that the pole at 4th & 4th would be relocated farther from that intersection. Another would be at the northeast side of the intersection of 14th Ave. and 6th St. and another on 14th Ave. to the west, both on City property. One pole would be in the triangle area at 12th Ave. and 6th St., NW. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the easements, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Adoption of Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2016. Motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1. Departmental Reports for the Month of August 2016. Reports were reviewed.

2. City Manager:

A letter of notice had been received from the Governor announcing that the \$500,000 CDBG grant had been awarded. (Southwest storm drainage project).

The new Fire Truck had been delivered and had been brought to City Hall for Council Members to see after the meeting.

JCI was finishing up the curbing and four corners on the Streetscape, with Oxford scheduled to pave next week, followed by striping before the street could be reopened.

Attended DOT meeting last week regarding Highway 84 paving which was scheduled to start in February or March, 2017.

3. Reports from Mayor and Council:

Councilman Gwaltney noted that some downtown merchants were concerned that the parking spaces seemed narrow and were worried that accidents might happen when car doors were opened. It was brought out that with parallel parking, even currently, drivers had to take care in opening doors into traffic lanes.

Councilman Cox requested that patrol officers issue warnings to landscaping businesses that are currently parking their trucks in the street and ask them to stop blocking the street.

Councilman Cox reported a permanent yard sale going on at 1021 4th St., NW.

Councilman Cloud reported on an un-permitted event or party that took place a couple of weekends ago on City property on 4th St., SW on the grassed area adjacent to Holder Park. He stated that a large number of people and cars were in that area as well as parked on the church

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and convenience store property nearby. He asked that a fence on the property, or some other method, be considered to discourage the unauthorized use of City property.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Councilman Cloud made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
MAYOR PRO TEM