

## **REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

The September 14, 2009 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Council Members James H. Douglas, Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, Fire Chief Donald Towne, 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 Thornton.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the August 24, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

### **DELEGATIONS:**

1.) **Cairo Fire Department - Swearing In (Oath of Office) for Members of the Fire Department** – Newly hired Firefighters Kory Anderson, Brad Cosby, (and Shannon Jimenez who was not present); newly promoted Engineers David Morton, Rusty Powe, Jason Pyles, and Bill Schafer; and newly promoted Lieutenant Mark Paytee were present accompanied by family and friends. Fire Chief Towne introduced each of the members who were pinned by spouses or friends and who were later sworn in by Mayor VanLandingham.

2.) **Johnny Mack Butler – Mr. Butler was not present.**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce Cairo Christmas Parade Application – Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. - Crowd control and barricade assistance requested.** After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Family Worship Center - Missionette Run/Walk Permit- 5K/10K on May 15, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Assistance of two Police Officers was requested.** After review, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Edil Vivas -Tent Revival Application – Impacto del Espiritu Santo (Impact of the Holy Spirit) - 3000 Highway 84 East (Valley Pines Golf Course) - Sept. 18 through 20, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.** After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Cairo High School Homecoming Parade Permit – November 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. - Crowd control and barricade assistance requested.** After review, motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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**GDOT Roadside Gateway Grant Application for Roadside Enhancement and Beautification, Resolution, and Memorandum of Understanding for the City of Cairo Eastern Gateway Triangle - (Intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Hwy 84/38).** City Manager Addleton advised that there was a grant opportunity available through the Department of Transportation (DOT) to transform the unsightly asphalted triangle at the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., NE and Highway 84. He stated that he had been planning the project for some months, and it could be funded from the Miscellaneous Street Improvements Budget along with grant funds. To enhance the City's entrance to the downtown business area, plans were to remove the existing asphalt, curb the triangle, irrigate the area, backfill with dirt, build a welcome sign, and fill with plants and sod; with a \$19,550.00 grant to be requested to pay for plants and plant materials. The asphalt removal, curbing, and sign were estimated to cost \$28,000.00, with the total preliminary project cost to be \$47,550.00. The City would be responsible for construction and maintenance of the area. Council Members reviewed the site plan and discussed the project plans, noting that more consideration might need to be given to the size and placement of the sign, as well as improving all the current city limit signs. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the resolution and submittal of the grant application as presented, with further consideration to be given later to the entrance sign. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Westside Drinking Water Plant Funding – Exhaustion of GEFA Stimulus Funds.** City Manager Addleton advised that he had been notified that the GEFA stimulus funds had been exhausted, and the City would not be receiving subsidization of the requested \$1.5 million GEFA loan for the Westside Water Plant. Most of the projects that were funded had already obtained categorical exclusion status through EPD's State Environmental Review Process, while the City's project was still in the rigorous review process at the time of awards. He noted that the review had to be done regardless and recommended continuing the loan process with GEFA, while using the bond proceeds available for the project. He also wanted to look at what stipulations, such as increasing water rates, would be required for loan approval before accepting the loan. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the continuation of the loan process, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**MEAG Power 2010 Annual Subscription for Supplemental Power Supply Policy Agreement.** City Manager Addleton and Energy Services Director Rod Prince had recommended the selection of option (i) to designate MEAG as the City's agent to nominate and acquire resources to optimize supplemental power supply requirements, and also option (v) to nominate excess capacity for reserves at \$46.97/kW-YR at DP. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the agreement with election of options (i) and (v), seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**David and Debra Tarver - Southern Hills Subdivision – Extension of Permit for Subdivision Development.** After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the extension request to begin development for one year to October 13, 2010, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Emory Thomas Sr. - Taxi/Limo Service Application (required insurance coverage included).** After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Shree Nathji Foods, Inc./Puriben A. Patel - Application for Alcoholic Beverage License – Beer & Wine, Retail Package – 1010 Highway 84 West.** After review, motion was made by

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Councilman Douglas to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Appointment of a Member to the Cairo Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Stephen L. Holt due to his recent resignation (term to expire December 31, 2011).** Council Members discussed the appointment, what the requirements and qualifications might be, and potential advertising for interested persons to volunteer their service on the board. It was also suggested that other cities be contacted to determine how their commission members are selected and what training is provided, with Council Members agreeing to postpone action until the October meeting.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. Advised that Mayor VanLandingham would be receiving the \$400,000 stormwater grant recently awarded to the City in a ceremony on Sept. 25th.
2. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues have been paved, with only the guardrails left to be installed.
3. Sidewalk had been completed on Ridge Ave., SW at the Goodwill apartments.
4. Stormwater drains were being tied in on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., SW, and he hoped the project would be finished by end of the month.

**REPORTS:**

**City of Cairo Code Enforcement - Report of August 2009 Permits Issued (All City), Inspections, Citations/Warnings.** Councilman Douglas asked how the number of days was determined for someone to correct a violation after a warning was issued.

**REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

Councilman Cloud asked if Attorney Lehman had responded to his question regarding the overgrowth on a house on Oak Drive. City Manager Addleton advised that he had not, but he had looked at the property himself.

Councilman Thornton noted that mowing needed to be done in the SW section.

Councilman Cloud read an unsigned letter from 20-year employees of the City requesting that the Council re-address the amount of vacation hours for the bracket 10-24 years, stating that 14 years was a big difference in years. They did not think it was fair that employees with 10 years received the same amount of vacation as someone with 24 years.

Councilman Douglas referred to potholes on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., NW and asked if it was a City street; with City Manager Addleton advising that it was and that the street was to be put on a list for recommended stimulus funding. He also referred to an email regarding MEAG bond requirements, with City Manager Addleton stating that the item would be on the next agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**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**