

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

The September 22, 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, and Public Works Director Raymond Stokes. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Burns.

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 – September 8, 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:

Request for Permit to Block 12th Avenue, NE from Hwy. 188 to Pineland Drive for Fall Festival on October 31, 2014 from 5:00 - 8:00 P.M. - Cairo Assembly of God - Travis Harrison, Applicant. After review, motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2014. After review, motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Application for Alcoholic Beverage License (Beer, Retail Package): Cairo Gas & Food located at 101 4th Street SW, Salah R Hijaz, New Owner/Applicant. After review, motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2014 Resolution Appointing Energy Services Director Rod Prince as the ECG Voting Delegate for the City of Cairo. After review, motion to approve the resolution for appointment was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

1.) Finance Report for the Month of August 2014. Finance Committee Chairman Douglas reported that work was progressing on getting the cash flow built up. He made motion to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

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2.) Departmental Reports: Water Loss Report – Public Works Director Raymond Stokes.

Mr. Stokes explained how the water system worked, how they searched for leaks that would result in losses, and provided water loss history of gallons pumped and sold. He noted that water losses had been reduced to less than 15% a few years ago but were now up to between 30% and 40%. With 120 miles of water mains, leaks that did not appear on the surface were sometimes very difficult to find. He added that the amount of water pumped from the City's wells might not be accurate, as the master meter at the #2 water plant had been in place since 1973. It could not be replaced at the present time because the plant could not be shut down until after the Airports wells and plant were constructed and on-line. He stated that his department had identified some small leaks but not a 10-million gallon leak. Also, the unaccounted for water was not entering the wastewater treatment plant based on the amount of wastewater being treated monthly. Councilman Douglas noted that every gallon of water pumped and lost had also been treated. Mr. Stokes also presented a list of jobs performed by his department in the past 12 months. With regard to the 999 locate requests, Councilman Cloud asked if it would help the department if there was one locate crew assigned to locate all city services instead of each department doing its own locates; with Mr. Stokes responding affirmatively. Engineer Stacy Watkins, who was present on another matter, advised that having everything set up on the SCADA system would help in finding leaks, and that a 15% loss was typical for most cities he dealt with. In closing, Mr. Stokes expressed his frustration in not being able to account for the high water loss, adding that he took it personally and would continue to work diligently to find the cause.

3.) Airport Water Well Update – Watkins & Associates. Engineer Stacy Watkins reported that the two wells had been drilled and tested for a month, pumping 3,000 gallons a minute with only a foot of drawdown. The original test well had shown high arsenic levels, and Mr. Watkins was concerned that the water might have to be treated twice at the new plant; however, the new wells had not shown a detectable level on any day tested. He added that a test showing less than 5 ppb of arsenic was considered non-detectable by EPD who tests annually and who had required the City to go to quarterly testing at the #2 water plant due to an occasional test showing the presence of arsenic. He sought guidance as to how the City wanted to proceed after having received the new test results and also offered some options: **1.)** proceed without arsenic treatment based on current readings, or **2.)** install the \$1M treatment system under the assumption that the arsenic would come back. His recommendation was to install the treatment system (one vessel) that was already included in the project costs in the event that the arsenic levels went up or in case the EPD changed their acceptable minimum. Council Members discussed and asked if the treatment could be bypassed if arsenic levels were non-detectable and how would it affect the treatment media. After discussion, the Mayor and Council were in agreement to install the system as originally planned and requested Mr. Watkins to proceed as soon as possible with the next step. Mr. Watkins advised that he was looking at opening bids in early 2015, with construction expected to take a year to complete.

4.) City Manager's Report.

- All properties to be obtained adjoining the Landfill had been acquired.
- GIRMA representative scheduled to be in town on Wednesday to verify all City property over \$25,000 for insurance purposes.
- GMA District 10 meeting scheduled for October 20th in Camilla, with RSVP by October 10th.

5.) Reports from Mayor & Council

- Councilman Cloud asked that DOT be requested to do another traffic study at 4th Ave., SE and Hwy. 93, as large trucks had been using 4th St., SE due to not being able to make the left turn from 4th Ave. onto 93.
- Councilman Douglas reported that there was slight tilting on the CNS HD channels.

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK