

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – OCTOBER 26, 2009

The October 26, 2009 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Pro Tem Ernest W. Cloud, Jr. presiding. Present were Council Members James H. Douglas, Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Mayor Richard VanLandingham was out of town, and Attorney Thomas L. Lehman joined the meeting shortly after the call to order. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, Finance Director Miriam Faircloth, and City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Cloud.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 12, 2009 Regular Meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS: Mayor Pro Tem Cloud welcomed Mrs. Carol Lehman of the Chamber of Commerce, along with five Cairo High School students participating in the S.T.A.R.T. Program who were present to observe the meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – Discussion of Approved Activities of the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Stimulus Award for Construction of Flood and Drainage Improvements in a Low and Moderate Income Neighborhood of 462 Persons - Stimulus Funding (\$400,000) awarded on September 25, 2009 for Hot Bed Drainage Improvements. City Manager Addleton explained that, in addition to CDBG funds, the City would be providing \$101,615 for engineering and utility relocation costs. The Hearing was held with no comments from the public being made. Public Hearing was closed.

City of Cairo Water System Improvements – Morningside Area W&A Project No. W0301-020-01B CDBG Project (CDBG Funding: \$500,000) – Award of Bid. City Manager Addleton advised that nine bids for the project were received, with the low bid from Radney Plumbing, Inc. of Valdosta in the amount of \$293,130.03. Council discussed the wide range of the low and high bids, with City Manager Addleton stating that he hoped the balance of the CDBG funding could be used to expand the project. He added that Engineer Watkins had recommended that the bid be awarded to the low bidder. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to award the bid to Radney Plumbing, Inc., seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Set Tentative Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for 2009 and Set a Meeting Date to Adopt the Final Millage. City Manager Addleton reported that, based on the formula provided by the State, a net rate of 7.49 mills had been computed for 2009 tax billing (12.62 gross mills with a sales tax roll-back of 5.13 mills). The net rate was the same as that for 2008 and would produce \$1,481,305 in revenue, which was slightly more than the amount budgeted in the previous year, resulting in a .42% increase. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to set the tentative 2009 net millage rate at 7.49 mills, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all

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Council Members present. A Special Meeting date was set for November 16th at 5:00 p.m. to set the final millage rate.

City Manager's Report:

- 1.) Reminded Council Members of the November 5th District Meeting.
- 2.) Requested Council Members to complete and return the Mayor's Day Registration forms.
- 3.) Reported that the Chamber of Commerce had requested at a meeting earlier in the day to have Broad Street blocked off with no parking allowed on the street during the Christmas Parade. He requested that they submit a formal request to present at the next Council meeting and to also poll the downtown merchants for their input.

Reports: Cairo Fire Department September 2009 Incident Lists and Activity Reports.

Mayor Pro Tem Cloud requested to learn why 911 operators called out the County Fire Department to a fire at Seminole Marine on the previous Saturday prior to calling the Cairo Fire Department.

Reports from Mayor & Council:

Councilman Thornton inquired as to when 1st Ave., SW would be paved, with Mayor Pro Tem Cloud noting that some water repairs needed to be completed first.

Councilman Gilliard stated that he had received a request for something to be done to slow down the traffic on Bell Alley beginning at the Library and proceeding north.

Councilman Jimmy Douglas:

- 1.) Requested that the shrubbery be trimmed or removed at the Fire Department on the corner of 6th St., & 2nd Ave., SE due to site blockage.
- 2.) Reported on the GMA Board of Directors Meeting held in Athens on October 16, 2009 as follows:
 - a.) Reported that the legislative reception at the 755 Club would not be held this year, shortening the conference by one night; and the fee was also being reduced.
 - b.) Due to the economy, extra effort was requested for the 2009 Mayors' Motorcade.
 - c.) Sales Tax collections were discussed, with three cities and four counties participating in a pilot program. One entity had received a list of returns to match with their business license records and had learned that 500 businesses were not paying the sales tax.
 - d.) Learned that officials and candidates who had not filed campaign reports were being fined by the Ethics Commission.
 - e.) Reported that a presentation on the State budget deficit (1.5M) may be given at the District 10 meeting.
 - f.) Plans made for gubernatorial candidates to debate at the Conference on Monday with the debate to be published later by GMA.

Mayor Pro Tem Cloud announced that the Finance reports would be presented at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

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APPROVED:

ERNEST W. CLOUD, JR.
MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK