

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 10, 2008

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on November 10, 2008 in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas, Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr. was not in attendance. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Exec. Asst. Donna Young, and Finance Directors Cecil Rash and Miriam Faircloth. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: Councilman Thornton gave Invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the October 27, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Cloud, with all Council Members present voting in favor of approval.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1.) Request to Close North Broad Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, NE during the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th, 2008 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present. City Manager Addleton noted that the state highway department had given verbal approval for the Cairo Police Department to direct traffic.

2.) Permit for Boys to Men of Grady County – Parade on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19, 2009, beginning at Roddenbery Memorial Library at 11:00 a.m. and ending at Holder Park. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment/Reappointment to the City of Cairo Development Authority. City Manager Addleton reported that Mr. Stafford had consented to serve another term on the authority. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to reappoint Mr. Chuck Stafford to another three-year term ending on October 31, 2011. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Resolution to Authorize City Manager to Abate Nuisance at 1002 1st St., SW (C18-76) – David Devalle, Owner – Dead Tree(s). City Manager Addleton reported that he had spoken with Building Official Hayes and had learned that certified letters had been sent out but were refused, and correspondence had also been delivered by regular mail to the home address. Mayor VanLandingham stated that he would rather see the fine process used in cases where there had been no response from the owner. Councilman Douglas made the suggestion to first issue a warning and/or citation before bringing the abatement to the Council. Council discussed using this fine process by first issuing the warning; but if there was no response received within the allotted time, to proceed with the citation. (No action was taken on the resolution for abatement).

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Cancellation of City Council Meeting Scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2008. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to cancel the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Communities of Opportunity Initiative. City Manager Addleton explained that the program was a locally-driven community development initiative launched by the state in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs to focus on the economic vitality of communities. Mrs. Nola Daughtry, who was present, had agreed to head the local Co-Op team. As an incentive for local governments, a \$5,000 grant would be available, to be matched locally with cash and in-kind. Another major benefit to the City would be the capability of submitting CDBG applications annually rather than every two years. Mrs. Daughtry explained that a community development strategy would be developed and could involve such organizations as the Children and Youth Council, First Steps literacy education programs, drug education, etc. City Manager Addleton and Mayor VanLandingham both volunteered to be a part of the team to develop the strategy. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve participation and to match the grant funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Finance Report for September 2008. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the report. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

REPORTS:

- a.) City of Cairo Code Enforcement – YTD**
- b.) City of Cairo Code Enforcement – October 2008**
- c.) Overtime Report – October 2008**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1.) City Manager Addleton reported on the progress of the Buchanan Street project, noting that the footers and pipes were in place, but there had been a two-week delay due to a manufacturer's error that had to be corrected. He hoped that the road would be passable to traffic by the first of December and would be paved after a period of time to allow for settling. **2.)** Regarding telephone installations, he reported that 47 connections had been made, with 75 applicants presently on the waiting list. It would be possible to complete 20 new installations per week. Approval was still pending, but expected, on an agreement that had been signed with Windstream to provide the ability to port phone numbers from that system. **3.)** He informed the Council that a beautification project had been started to improve several areas throughout the City with plants being donated by Monrovia. He was working with Jenny Law, Southeast Regional Sales Coach with Monrovia, along with some design assistance provided by Doug Lake of Lake Landscaping and planting was to be done by City crews. He noted that some areas included were the eastside water tank, Milestone Industrial Park, Hilltop water tank, and City parks. He also welcomed any suggestions from the Council. Mayor VanLandingham pointed out that someone would need to see that the areas were maintained after planting was completed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reminders:

- a.) Annual City Christmas Dinner – December 19, 2008 – 12:00 Noon at the Grady**

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Cultural Center.

b.) District 10 Fall Dinner Meeting/Legislative Appreciation - Thursday, November 20th at 6:00 p.m.

c.) Mayor's Day Conference – January 24 – January 25, 2009.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilman Thornton inquired if the cost studies for storm water management in the NW section had been completed, with City Manager Addleton reporting that he would check with the engineers at DRMP to see when the information could be presented to the Council.

Councilman Douglas commented on a recent letter to the Cairo Messenger editor written by Mr. Timothy Pearson regarding potholes. He noted that the crews could not repair potholes if they were not aware of them and suggested putting information on the website for reporting potholes, water leaks, and other problems, while assigning someone to check the site each day. He also stated that he had ridden by the eastside water tank, and the landscaping was an improvement to the site.

Councilman Cloud asked if another crosswalk could be installed on the south side of the intersection of 5th St. & 4th Ave. SE at the high school. Ms. Young reported that the request had been made previously but had been denied by the state. He also requested that the road in the middle of Crestview Cemetery be repaired, as it was sinking and holding water.

Mayor VanLandingham inquired about the speed limit studies that had been done on Highway 84 and asked for an update. He also reported that he had received calls regarding the higher price of gas in Cairo as compared to surrounding cities. Council discussed their concerns, while noting that the suppliers and distributors were in control of the prices; and people would need to address their complaints to that group.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK**