

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 24, 2008

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on November 24, 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., Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, and Exec. Asst. Donna Young. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Gwaltney gave the Invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the November 10, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon motion by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, with all Council Members voting in favor of approval.

### **DELEGATIONS:**

**Scott Miller – MEAG Power – MEAG Trust Fund Disbursement.** Mr. Miller was present to update the Council and answer questions regarding the election to be made on the Municipal Competitive Trust Fund. He explained that the first credit that the City would see on their bill would be in February 2009. Most cities involved in the Plant Vogtle Project were making allocations to two funds -- with 50% going into a New Generation Trust Account for capital investments that could be applied to Vogtle costs, and 50% into the Flexible Trust Account for local costs. Some were also allocating 100% to the Generation fund. City Manager Addleton recommended considering the 50-50 option initially and looking at future options on a year-to-year or month-to-month basis thereafter. He advised that he would be sending an e-mail the following day summarizing the information. Council discussed the various election options, with City Manager Addleton noting that the election would be considered on the December 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### **SPECIAL EVENT:**

**1.) F.I.R.M. Dance Company – Request to use a Portion of the City-owned Lot at the Northwest Corner of South Broad and MLK during the Christmas Parade.** After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gilliard and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**2.) Request to have a Christmas Tree Fundraiser at 328 Highway 84 East – November 25th through December 23rd, 2008 - Jim Ellis, Board Member of the American Red Cross Wiregrass Chapter, Applicant.** After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members. It was noted that another group had not been allowed to do this previously due to there not being restroom facilities there, and it was requested that that be checked on.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit for Church Building Construction at 324 & 410 3<sup>rd</sup> St. NE – Tax Map C26 – Parcel 102 & 103 – Ronnie Mills, Property Owner – New Generation by Faith Ministries, Inc (Rev. Tommy Burch).** Rev. Burch was present and stated that they wished to build a 6,000 to 7,000 square foot building on the approximate two-acre site that would provide ample room for parking. After comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

**Conditional Use Permit for Church Building Construction at 324 & 410 3<sup>rd</sup> St. NE – Tax Map C26 – Parcel 102 & 103 – Ronnie Mills, Property Owner – New Generation by Faith Ministries, Inc (Rev. Tommy Burch).** It was noted that both the Planning Commission and SOWEGA RDC had recommended approval of the conditional use. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the conditional use permit. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**Transfer of Alcoholic Beverage (Beer/Wine, Retail Package) License for Rite Aid #4603 from Percy Phillips, Druggist to Sherry Faircloth, Store Manager.** After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to approve the transfer of license. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members. It was noted that the application fee had been collected for the transfer.

**5-Year Capital Outlay Plan and 2010 Pre-Application for State Assistance for the Cairo Municipal Airport.** City Manager Addleton advised that a 5-Year Plan would have to be submitted to obtain funding for the Airport. Council discussed plan projections, noting that all programs would not have to be completed. Councilman Douglas inquired on the progress of the removal of trees at

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the Airport, with City Manager Addleton responding that the trees would be cut prior to April, 2009. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the plan. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

### REPORTS:

**a.) Cairo Fire Department – October 31, 2008.**

**b.) Cairo Police Department – October 31, 2008.** Council noted that a citation had been issued for violation of a burn permit.

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1.) City Manager Addleton reported that a request had been sent to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to have an additional crosswalk installed at 5<sup>th</sup> St. & 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., SE near the high school. 2.) He reported on the progress of beautification projects underway at Milestone Industrial Park, Eastside Water Tank, Hilltop Water Tank, the Cemeteries on Highway 84 East, and downtown South Broad Street. It was suggested that the Downtown Development Authority members be contacted for input regarding the tree installation planned for the sidewalk cut-outs on South Broad. In addition to Monrovia, he recognized Graco Fertilizer and Lee Thomas of Thomas Tree Service for their contributions to the projects. 3.) He advised that DRMP engineers would present the Stormwater Management Plan at the next Council meeting. 4.) He updated Council on the progress of telephony service, with 93 installations and 60 waiting to be installed. 5.) He advised that Mr. Ryan Cleveland had been contacted to remove his political campaign signs. 6.) He reminded Council of the Christmas Parade on December 4<sup>th</sup> in which the Council was to ride on the antique fire truck.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

**a.) Update on Speed Limit on Highway 84 East & 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NE.** City Manager Addleton had learned that DOT had approved speed limit changes in February 2008 from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NE to Little Tired Creek (45MPH-40MPH-35MPH), but had not yet posted new signs.

### REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

As a result of several requests made to him, Councilman Gwaltney asked that DOT be contacted to perform a traffic light feasibility study at the intersection of 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, NW and Highway 93 North. Adding that, with the development of Lake Arthur Subdivision and the Village at Wedgewood senior complex on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., there would be increased traffic at that intersection.

Councilman Gilliard requested that potholes on 20<sup>th</sup> St., NE be patched.

Councilman Cloud made motion for the City to furnish portable toilets at Holder Park for the MLK day celebration. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Councilman Douglas requested that the sign ordinance be looked at before the next election to provide for fines for those placing campaign signs on the rights-of-way. Attorney Lehman pointed out that the ordinance already provides for a fine, but is was sometimes hard to prove a case due to persons other than the candidates putting out the signs. It was suggested that candidates be notified of violations, given a time to correct the problem, and then issue a fine (citation) for each sign. City Manager Addleton suggested removing those signs on rights-of-way and then placing a fine on the candidate. Councilman Douglas also inquired as to the progress of putting pothole reporting information on the City's website, with Exec. Asst. Young advising that the report was in progress. City Manager Addleton advised that the whole website was being considered for revision.

Mayor VanLandingham requested that monies be appropriated in the next budget for more holiday decorations, possibly even some on Highway 84. He added that decorations that are presently more plentiful in some areas could be distributed among other areas next year.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:50 p.m. motion was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members to enter into Executive Session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4)). Present for the session were Mayor VanLandingham; Council Members Cloud, Douglas, Gwaltney, Gilliard, and Thornton; City Manager Addleton, City Attorney Lehman; City Clerk Lee; and Exec. Asst. Young. At 7:00 p.m. motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to go out of Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

There was no action taken as a result of the session.

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

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**APPROVED:**

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**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**CAROLYN B. LEE  
CITY CLERK**