

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 28, 2011

The November 28, 2011 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr., Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., James H. Douglas, and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Robert L. Gwaltney was unable to attend the meeting. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee, and Energy Services Director Rod Prince. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gilliard.

Mayor VanLandingham expressed congratulations to the Cairo High School football team on their performance, noting what a positive thing it was for the whole community. Councilman Cloud also applauded St. Pius for their recognition of several Cairoites who had excelled in sports over the years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – November 14, 2011. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

Bob Anderson, President of Habitat for Humanity, was present to request the transfer of a lot (Bell Alley Redevelopment Lot 9, Block A) to the organization for the purpose of building a small two-bedroom house. The lot had previously been deeded to Habitat; but due to two easements across the property, it was deeded back to the City. It had now been determined that a small house could be built on the lot to accommodate a family of four. Mr. Anderson also requested the waiving of permit fees. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the transfer and waiver of fees, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

SPECIAL EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of Ordinance to Restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Cairo in accordance with Adoption Agreement - Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS). City Manager Addleton advised that the restated plan was to be adopted in order to comply with IRS requirements. Some of the changes did not apply to the City's master plan, and those that did apply provided for minor changes only. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the restatement of the retirement plan, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present. (Ordinance will be considered for adoption at the next regular meeting).

CNS Cable TV Rate Restructure. City Manager Addleton presented a proposed rate adjustment (5% average increase) for CNS Cable TV effective in 2012 in order to cover the cost increases incurred by the City for provider programming and local over-the-air channel subscriber fees. Internet and telephone rates would remain the same. Both Camilla and Moultrie were to increase their rates as well, with Thomasville's rates already being higher than the other cities. He

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added that he had been notified by Mediacom that they would also have a rate increase for their cable service. Council Members Cloud and Douglas stated that they had received several citizen requests to add a specific channel which had expensive costs associated with it, but City Manger Addleton was requested to check on a cost projection for it and report back. After discussion, motion to approve the new rate structure was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Municipal Competitive Trust Fund Voluntary Deposits (\$816,855) for 2012. City Manager Addleton explained that, due to increasing fuel costs and regulatory/environmental costs, the 2012 budget would increase over 2011. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to use the same election as the previous year to place 50% in the Flexible Operating Account, Short Term Portfolio, and also 50% as a monthly credit on the MEAG bill in order to keep an amount for capital outlay. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Purchase of a New Altec Digger Derrick Mounted on a New Peterbilt Cab and Chassis. Council reviewed a memo from Energy Services Director Prince who had solicited bids separately for the digger derrick unit and the cab/chassis in order to save approximately \$30,000. The bid for the attachment unit was from Altec in the amount of \$156,717, and the bid from Beck Motors for the 2012 Peterbilt cab and chassis was \$98,841, a total of \$253,558. The units were budgeted and would be paid for out of the Municipal Competitive Trust Fund. Motion to approve the purchase was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Davis Park Beautification Project. City Manager Addleton reported that work was running on schedule for the stormwater detention facility project, and it was time to consider landscaping of the park. A proposal for the best case scenario in the amount of \$76,142.00, which included some large trees, had been obtained from Lake Landscaping who was thought to be the only local company that could manage a project of this magnitude. City Manager Addleton added that \$12,000 to \$13,000 could be trimmed off these costs by planting some smaller trees than those indicated on the schematic, and he believed that the work could be done for approximately \$60,000. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the landscaping work, with a not-to-exceed cost amount of \$65,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and unanimously approved by all Council Members present. Councilman Cloud made reference to the helicopter located at the park and asked where it would be relocated, with City Manager Addleton advising that this phase of the project would not be impacted by the helicopter. Council discussed, and it was to be decided before the next project phase began where the helicopter would be located.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Finance Report for the Month of July 2011. Motion to approve the report was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

2.) City Manager's Report:

a. A finalized agreement had been received from Bank of America for purchase of the building and land on 5th St., NE to house the Department of Labor. He expected the closing to take place in mid-December.

b. Christmas Parade to be held on Thursday night, December 1st.

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c. An exercise had been scheduled for Friday, December 2nd at the LAS site for the repair of a gas leak under pressure, with PSC officials to be present.

e. A traffic feasibility study for installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Long Branch Road and Highway 93 had been prepared by DOT, but the traffic volumes had not met the requirements for a signal.

3.) Reports from Mayor & Council:

a. Councilman Cloud requested that the City cemeteries be sprayed for ants. He also asked about the unavailability of water in Crestview Cemetery, with City Manager Addleton responding that it would be reactivated with work on the 20th St. Project. He also inquired of Attorney Lehman regarding the status of properties in the northwest section, with Attorney Lehman responding that he was working on the acquisitions and would present an update at the next meeting.

b. Councilman Douglas reported that all Mayors & Councils of Ga. cities had been challenged to donate “\$11.00 for 2011” to the Mayors’ Motorcade on December 8th.

c. Mayor VanLandingham reported on recent activities of the ECG Board.

d. Attorney Lehman reported that he had filed a brief earlier in the day in the Elbert Walker appeal. He had previously filed a motion to dismiss the case due to improper filing by Mr. Walker, but had not received an answer to the motion prior to the due date for filing the brief.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK