

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 10, 2012

The December 10, 2012 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 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 Energy Services Director Rod Prince. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor VanLandingham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – November 26, 2012. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Mike Keown was present to announce his candidacy for the Senate seat recently vacated by Mr. John Bulloch and to let the Council know that he would be readily available and responsive to the City's needs. He also reported that the election would be held January 8th.

SPECIAL EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Reschedule Date Previously Approved for the 2013 M. L. King Parade from January 21st to January 26th. It had been learned that the original date was the same as that of the Presidential Inauguration; therefore, it had been requested that the parade be changed to January 26th at 11:00 a.m. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the change, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Application for Alcoholic Beverage License - Transfer of Owner at 375 5th St., SE – One Convenient Stop #4 - Jitendrakumar Patel, Owner – Retail Beer, Package. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Grady County 4-H Request to use City's LAS Site for Modified Trap Shooting Range and a 3-D Range on Sunday afternoons during the months of January through May. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Re-Appointment of City Manager Chris Addleton to a four-year term to SGGSA Board of Directors (Term 1/15/2013 – 1/15/2017). After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the re-appointment, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Gift of Property to the City of Cairo from Florence W. Griner and Five Others (Caroline Gamma, Representative for Griner Estate) – Three Lots on 4th Ave., NW – Tax Map C13 – Parcels 69, 69.1, and 69.2., located mainly in the Flood Plain of Parker's Mill Creek.

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Attorney Lehman advised that he had done some title work on the property; adding that he believed that Florence Griner was now deceased, and the heirs of the estate would be required to sign the deed. The City would need to pay the 2012 taxes (\$41.41) which were due December 20th, as well as those for 2013 if the transaction was not completed by December 31, 2012. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to accept the property and to pay the taxes after completion of the deed transaction. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Attorney Lehman was to contact the heirs of the estate.

Holder Park/Wooten Property Proposal from Camille Wooten. City Manager Addleton advised that the City had a driveway at Holder Park that accessed the baseball field and was once used as access to an old well that had been abandoned. A recent survey prepared by Joey Brock had shown that a portion of the driveway, 0.01 acre, was on the adjacent Wooten property located at 117 6th St. SW. Attorney Lehman stated that there had not been a survey of the property until recently, and no one was sure of where the boundaries actually were, and he thought the driveway had gotten rounded off over years of use. The survey was drawn to show two parcels, the 0.01 acre that contained the driveway as a separate parcel so that it could be deeded to the City. He added that, initially, the property owner just wanted a survey of her property and a good deed. However, a proposal dated December 5th had since been received from Camille Wooten outlining her request for compensation in the amount of \$1,000 for use of part of her land, \$840 for a fence, payment of surveyor fees (\$500), and attorney fees in the amount of \$150.00. She also requested a reduction in her property taxes and an updated deed. Attorney Lehman believed that prescriptive easement would apply in the case, and he did not see damage to the lot owner. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to pay for the survey of the property and attorney fees for the deed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and unanimously approved by all Council Members. City Manager Addleton was to contact the property owner regarding the Council's decision.

Davis and Holder Park Improvements. (Replace swing sets, picnic tables, and trash receptacles at Holder Park and picnic tables and trash receptacles at Davis Park with up to \$20,000 funding redirected from Azalea Park budgeted improvements). City Manager Addleton advised that a dedication ceremony was scheduled for March 15, 2013 to re-name the Boys and Girls Club to the Jackie Robinson Boys and Girls Club of Cairo/Grady County, with members of the Robinson family and other dignitaries to be in attendance. He recommended replacing the equipment as indicated at Holder Park and completing improvements at Davis Park. He had obtained quotes for the equipment and wished to redirect up to \$20,000 from the budget for Azalea Park improvements to fund the purchase. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the expenditure, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Proposed CNS Cable TV Rate Adjustment to become effective February 1, 2013. City Manager Addleton advised that the rate increase was necessary to cover cost increases in cable provider programming and local over-the-air channel subscriber fees. Several new channels would be launched as well as expansion of high definition channels. Prices for DVR services would decrease in order to be more competitive, and a bundled internet/phone package would be offered. He was asked if the addition of the NFL channel had brought any new subscribers, replying that he believed there were a lot of people who were glad to have it, but he could not definitively say that it had. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the rate structure, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Introduction of Excise Tax Ordinance on Energy Used in Manufacturing and to Provide for Implementation and Imposition of the Excise Tax. City Manager Addleton advised that the new tax would be necessary to offset the exemption of sales tax on energy used at manufacturing plants which was eliminated by the legislature in the last session. However, they did allow local

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governments to impose an excise tax to cover the sales tax losses which would become effective January 1, 2013. The tax would be phased in over a four-year period, mirroring the phase-out of the sales tax over the same period. Council discussed the logistics for implementation of the new tax with Director Prince, with Mr. Prince stating that he has been discussing the issue with the software provider in Thomasville. The ordinance was introduced and discussed, with the setting of a Special Meeting on Monday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m. to consider adoption.

2013 Municipal Competitive Trust Voluntary Deposit and Sales Margin Election

Forms. City Manager Addleton reported that this item had been discussed in the Finance Committee meeting just prior to the Council meeting. A new Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio had been offered for investment of funds. The Finance Committee had recommended not to invest in the new account and to leave the current investment option in place. After discussion, Council agreed with the recommendation, so no action was taken.

Renewal of 2013 Lease Agreement between the City of Cairo and Ronald A. Hall for Rental of 37.5 Acres of Farm Land located on the Airport Property. City Manager Addleton noted that there was no change from the previous year. The lessee would pay \$45.00 per acre, \$1,687.50 annually, by December 30, 2012. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilman Thornton. Motion passed, with Council Members Cloud, Gilliard, Gwaltney, and Thornton voting in favor, with Councilman Douglas abstaining from discussion or voting due to a conflict of interest.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Finance Report for the Month of October 2012. Councilman Douglas noted that there had been a mild summer and winter and hopefully that would turn around soon, but cash flow was being monitored. He made motion to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

2.) City Manager Addleton:

- The Help Agency had requested that part of 11th Ave., NE, from Market Street to 2nd St., NE, be closed during their event to be held on December 20th at the AgriCenter in order to eliminate congestion in that area. Motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.
- A Special Called meeting had been set for 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 17th to consider adoption of the Excise Tax Ordinance.
- The Annual City Luncheon was to be held at the Cultural Center on Friday, December 14th at noon.
- A kickoff meeting for the Streetscape concept was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11th.

3.) Reports from Mayor & Council:

- Councilman Cloud asked that a street light be repaired at the corner of 1st Ave., NE (coming out near Three Squares Diner).
- Councilman Thornton also asked that a street light at M. L. King and 5th St., SW be repaired.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**CAROLYN B. LEE
CITY CLERK**