

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 12, 2011

The December 12, 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, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee, and Finance Director Miriam Faircloth. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind and Reporter Brian Dekle were also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – November 28, 2011. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

1.) Mr. Doug Taylor - Helicopter at Davis Park. Mr. Taylor, accompanied by Mr. Buck Collins and Mr. Jesse Hobby, expressed concern regarding where the helicopter would be re-located and requested that it remain in an honorable place in Davis Park. Mayor VanLandingham expressed his desire to see that all branches of the military be honored and stated that locations were being considered and that Mr. Taylor would be consulted on the decision. He added that lifting the helicopter into the air ten to fifteen feet had been suggested. City Manger Addleton stated that he had previously spoken with Mr. Taylor regarding that suggestion and that Mr. Taylor was to present plans for a pedestal. Mr. Taylor stated that plans were being made for the Memorial Day celebration where a deceased veteran who was buried in Grady County was to be honored and asked if work at the park would be finished in time. City Manager Addleton responded that he hoped the work would be completed by the first of May but could not guarantee that it would.

2.) Audit Firm of Bowen Phillips, LLP – Presentation of June 30, 2011 Audit (Draft). Auditor Tom Carmichael had met earlier in the evening with the Finance Committee. He outlined financial activities in the various funds which showed positive increases in ending balances or net assets over last fiscal year with the exception of the Cable TV Fund which showed an increase in surplus, resulting in a decrease in deficit over last year. There was also an increase in capital assets along with a decrease in long-term debt. He explained the approach taken in preparation of the audit, noting that everything had gone well. After some additional information was received an audit letter would be prepared in addition to the final statements which were to be submitted to the State by December 31st. City Manager Addleton stated that he had reviewed the audit and, due to cancellation of the last meeting in December, he requested that Council give approval for the Finance Committee to approve the final documents in order to meet the submission deadline. The final report would be submitted to the Council at the first meeting in January, 2012. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to allow the Finance Committee to approve the final audit for submission, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. (Draft Audit Report to become a part of these minutes).

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 12, 2011

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of Ordinance to Re-State the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Cairo in Accordance with Adoption Agreement with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS). (Ordinance was introduced at the previous meeting). Motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Airport Committee - Re-Appointment of Existing Members. After review, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to re-appoint Mr. Denny Warren and Mr. James Jenkins to three-year terms ending December 31, 2014, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Downtown Development Authority - Re-Appointment of Existing Member and Appointment of New Member to replace Mr. Al Rocuant. After review, motion was made by Councilman Gilliard to reappoint Mr. Mike Chastain to another term and to appoint Mr. Craig Brock as a new member, both terms to expire December 31, 2017. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

Finance Report for the Month of August 2011. Reporting that the statements were becoming more current and the City was in good shape budget-wise, Councilman Douglas made motion to approve the August finance report. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Fire Department Report for the Month of November 2011. Council reviewed the report.

City Manager's Report:

- a.) The City's new Redistricting Plan for Voting Districts had been approved by the Department of Justice.
- b.) A Notice to Proceed on the Downtown Streetscape had been received from DOT and advertising would begin for consulting services.
- c.) Advertising was to begin for Davis Park Project – Phase Two.
- d.) The signed Purchase/Sales Agreement had been received from Bank of America. Attorney Lehman had also sent them the Disbursement Statement which they were to sign and return with the deed. A project kick-off meeting with the Department of Labor and the contractor had been scheduled for the following week.
- e.) Oxford Construction had completed seven miles of street resurfacing (Phase One) with some striping left to be done. SPLOST signs had been placed on the streets.
- f.) The City's Christmas Luncheon was scheduled for the following Friday at 11:30.

Attorney Lehman presented an update on the acquisition of flooded properties in the northwest section as follows: Five of six lots on the right side of Smart Street contained structures. Two acquisitions had been completed. The Jessie Mae Gordon lot had a lien on it, but was finished. Documents were ready on the Gurley tract, but acquisition was at a standstill. There were two structures on the Kelly property, and there was opposition to the acquisition. Mr. Talmadge Smart, Jr. had been sent the paperwork for the Talmadge Smart property. There was not a house on the Riley Smart lot, and Ms. Claretha Vicks was circulating the paperwork. Attorney Lehman did not foresee

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 12, 2011

any problems with the Smart acquisitions. The Sampson & Lillian Bell paperwork was completed. He noted that the acquisitions were made more difficult due to the large number of people involved in some cases. City Manager Addleton advised that once clean titles and deeds for the lots containing structures were received, they would be sent to FEMA. The vacant lot would be purchased outright. It was noted that Mr. Jimmy Copeland, whose property was located across the street, has expressed a desire for acquisition as well. Councilman Cloud also reported that the Bells who owned a doublewide across the street had also shown interest.

Reports from Mayor & Council:

Councilman Gilliard reported that there had not been a flagman present at the resurfacing project at Eastside School when he was there, and also that the project had been started at the school rather than at Highway 84 as had been originally reported. He also reported that there was a lot of trash along Highway 84 East between Airport Road and Valley Pines Golf Course.

Councilman Cloud requested that, in the future, the Christmas Parade float design and costumes be pre-approved by the Council; noting that, in the past, one of the Councilmen had provided assistance on the design of the float. City Manager Addleton stated that a lot of work went into preparing the float and requested to know what the Council's wishes were with regard to future floats and the attire of Council Members. Mayor VanLandingham and Councilman Thornton noted that this year's float had won First Place and had received a lot of compliments. Council discussed wearing red sweatshirts in the future, with Councilman Cloud adding that children of City employees had always been given first option to ride the float.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM, MAYOR

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK