

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 12, 2016

The December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Robert B. Burns, Sr. Present were Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas, Council Members Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Jerry L. Cox, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Councilman Lannis Thornton was not able to attend the meeting. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton and City Clerk Carolyn Lee. City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman did not attend the meeting. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Jordan Barela, were also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Council Meeting – November 28, 2016. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

20th Street SE Rehabilitation Project. City Manager Addleton conveyed that the City had originally allocated GDOT FY 2017 LMIG funds toward the project, along with funding from the Joint Development Authority, Grady County, and a grant from GDOT. When the grant did not materialize, Grady County decided to delay their contribution. Due to the critical need to rehabilitate 20th Street for industry truck traffic, and the fact that it could be tied to economic development and jobs, it was suggested that the City request funding from DCA utilizing excess funds in the City of Cairo Employee Incentive Program (EIP) Revolving Loan Fund. DCA required that the cash balance in the fund not exceed more than 30% of total assets. The asset value had grown resulting in approximately \$450,000 in excess funds which could possibly be recaptured by them. A letter was sent to DCA requesting the use of these funds for the 20th Street Project, and approval had been granted to utilize \$462,818 from the fund. Mayor Burns asked if an intergovernmental agreement would be necessary, but Atty. Lehman was not present to answer that question. Council discussed annexation of the balance of 20th St., SE and the right-of-way up to Joyner Road with Councilman Douglas making motion to begin the annexation process. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and unanimously approved by all Council Members present. Motion was also made by Councilman Douglas to advertise for bids for the 20th Street NE and SE project, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

GDOT FY 2017 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG). City Manager Addleton advised that funds previously approved for the 20th Street Project would now need to be re-directed to another project, and he and Public Works Director Stokes recommended the north side piping and resurfacing of 10th Ave., NW where storm water damage had eroded the street. Since the total cost for this project was unknown, City Manager Addleton requested to bid out the resurfacing of 6th St., NW as Alternate #1 and that portion of 7th Ave., NW around Azalea Park as Alternate #2, in order to use the whole amount of the grant (\$140,970.81 GDOT, with 30% City match of \$42,291.42, totaling \$183,262.05). Council Members discussed and agreed to wait and reconsider this item after the 20th Street bids came in.

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Final Approval of Audit Report FY 2016. Councilman Douglas referred to Page 81 and some change in verbiage that the Finance Committee had recommended. He made motion to approve the report, with Councilman Cloud seconding the motion, and all Council Members present unanimously approving.

Calendar for City Council Meetings in 2017. After review, motion to approve the calendar was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Cancellation or Rescheduling of the Council Meeting Scheduled for December 26, 2016. Motion to cancel the meeting was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Appointment/Re-Appointment of Cairo Planning Commission Members. After review, motion to re-appoint James Gerth and Tom Brown to five-year terms ending December 31, 2021 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Appointment/Re-Appointment for the SGGSA Board. Motion was made by Councilman Cloud to re-appoint City Manager Addleton to another term and to appoint Councilman Douglas to fill the remaining term of Mayor Burns. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

Proposed Compensatory Time Policy for Employees. Councilman Cox stated that he had been requested by City employees to consider reinstating a comp time policy, and he had asked that a new policy be considered. He noted that the former policy was not well-written or well-managed, and that most employees had reduced or used their comp time since it was terminated. Adding that he had managed plants and crews where a well-written plan was monitored and enforced, he believed it to be a benefit to employees, as well as to the City regarding cash flow. Councilman Cloud agreed but asked that the plan not be voted on at the meeting, but be brought back in January after everyone had a chance to study it. Councilman Douglas commented that comp time was “kicking the can down the road” with overtime, and some department heads had not managed the policy as intended, allowing employees to build up more than the maximum hours and carry balances through raises which ended up costing the City more than paying the original overtime. Councilman Cox noted that the risk was there, but that it would not happen all at one time. Councilman Cox made motion that the plan be studied and brought back for consideration. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

1. Departmental Reports for the Month of November 2016. Councilman Cox commented on the Police Dept. report, noting that a person had gotten a ticket for “deviating from truck route” where the driver had followed his GPS and did not see the sign while traveling east to west on Highway 84. He suggested looking at additional signage for that route.

2. City Manager Addleton’s Report.

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant bar screen project was near completion, and a walk-thru was scheduled for Wednesday with the engineer.

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3. Reports from Mayor & Council.

- Councilman Cox thanked City Manager Addleton for sending the letter to MEAG regarding the Council’s recent action to rescind the rights-of-way easements in the NW section.
- Councilman Cloud reported on a class he had attended in Tifton on marketing cities and mentioned Cairo’s entrance signs as one area that could use improvement.
- Councilman Douglas reported favorably on the Artisan Fair that had been held downtown on Saturday, noting that there was a lot of people, even in the retail stores and restaurants.

Atty. Claire Chason was present and inquired if there had been any response to the letter sent to MEAG, with City Manager Addleton responding that the Council’s action to rescind the easements was under consideration.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Councilman Douglas made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR