

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 14, 2009

The December 14, 2009 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall with Mayor Richard VanLandingham presiding. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., Council Members James H. Douglas, 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 B. Lee, and Finance Director Miriam Faircloth. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Gwaltney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 23, 2009 Regular Meeting. Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: Mr. Tom Carmichael of the audit firm Bowen, Phillips, Carmichael, Davis & Sims, LLP had presented the FY 2008-09 Draft Audit Report (to become a part of these minutes) to the Finance Committee prior to the meeting. Presenting a comparison summary of fund expenses, revenues, and balances, he noted that he believed they could meet the December 31st deadline. In reviewing the various funds, he pointed out the \$4,272,000 ending balance in the General Fund. He also noted the large decrease in Water and Sewer Fund revenues, stating that he would like to identify the difference. The Electric Fund revenues had increased with expenses rising in line with revenues. On a positive note, he pointed out the reduction in the net deficit in the Cable TV Fund that resulted in a positive value in net assets. Capital assets had increased, with long-term debts decreasing. Councilman Douglas advised, that based on a discussion in the Finance Committee meeting, some issues needed resolving; and he suggested applying for an extension to allow more time to look at entries and review monthly statements. Mr. Carmichael responded that he did not have a problem with a six-month extension.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Permit for Boys to Men of Grady County – Parade on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18, 2010, beginning at Roddenbery Memorial Library at 11:00 a.m. and ending at Holder Park. After review, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney. Councilman Cloud requested that the motion be amended to add permission for use of the baseball field and also for the City to provide portable toilets for the event as had been done in the past. Councilmen Thornton and Gwaltney agreed to the amendment, and the motion to approve passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Application for Alcoholic Beverage License - Shilpa H. Patel /Trusha Inc. After review, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the application, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Councilman Douglas noted that a question on the application which asked for the applicant to list other businesses he/she was associated with was left blank and suggested that the question be made more specific.

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Consider Finance Report for the Month of October 2009. As the Finance Committee had not had been able to discuss the report, Council postponed the item until the January 2010 meeting.

Consider 2010 Lease Agreement between the City of Cairo and Mr. Ronald A. Hall for rental of 37.5 acres located on the City of Cairo Airport property at \$45.00 per acre, with \$1,687.50 payable on or before December 31, 2010. City Manager reported that he had negotiated the contract recommending an increase in rental from \$30 to \$45 per acre. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the lease agreement for 2010 at \$45.00 per acre, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed by Council Members Cloud, Gilliard, Gwaltney, and Thornton. Councilman Douglas abstained from voting due to a conflict.

Consider Resolution to Apply for a City of Cairo/Grady County-CDBG EIP (Employment Incentive Program) Funds from the (DCA) Georgia Department of Community Affairs (Turner Furniture Project). Chamber Executive Director, Brian Marlow, was present with regard to the application. He stated that the project was not located within the city limits, but as Grady County did not have a Revolving Loan Fund, it had been requested that the project pass through the City's fund. The grant from DCA would come through the City on behalf of Turner Furniture with Turner's payments going back into the loan fund. He added that there would be no liability on the City's part. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Mr. Marlow thanked the Mayor and Council for their support, adding that the recent formation of the Boys & Girls Club was a great step for the community. Mayor VanLandingham requested that Mr. Marlow set up meetings on a quarterly basis and inform the Council of the dates.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Announced that the MEAG monthly billing credit for 2010 would be \$104,532 per month. In 2009 it had been decided to place 50% of the credits in the New Generation Trust Account and 50% in the Competitive Trust Operating Account. The amount placed in the Operating Account in 2009 was to be taken out and used to pay down the debt on the Milestone expansion. City Manager Addleton added that the payment was made quarterly with the next payment due the following day. He was requested to learn what the pay-off would be and Council would reconsider the matter in January.
2. Reported that the 1st Ave., SW (12th St. to 16th St.) LARP contract had been awarded to Oxford Construction.
3. Reported that the annual Mayor's Motorcade had been a success and recognized City employee, Dana Barfield, along with co-workers Carolyn Meades, Brad Cosby, LaDarren Floyd, and Judith Pinon. Motion was made by Councilman Gwaltney to recognize those employees in some way, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.
4. Reminded the Council of the City luncheon to be held on Friday, December 18th.
5. Announced plans to video Mr. Alan Parks sewer line and, in conjunction, to do smoke tests to look at major I&I issues at the 7th Ave. station.
6. Reported that an independent audit had been requested regarding drainage issues with a portion of the paving project on 4th Ave., SW between Washington School and Highway 111 South. A meeting would then be set with the contractor to address those issues.
7. Announced that DRMP was reviewing the bids on the 6th Ave., NW Hotbed Stimulus Project, and that it might be necessary to call a special meeting to award the contract.

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8. Reported on damages caused by a recent break-in at Public Works in the old Roddenbery building and Council discussed security issues there.

REPORTS: None

REPORTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilmen Cloud and Thornton requested that 1st Ave., SW have all water/water line issues corrected before paving was done so that cuts would not have to be made. Councilman Cloud also asked that a leak at the Cultural Center building be repaired, with City Manager Addleton stating that it was in process.

Mayor VanLandingham announced that it was time to perform an evaluation of City Manager Addleton, and he would set this up for an Executive Session in January. He commended Admin. Assistant Judith Pinon for taking the lead in preparation of the City's Christmas Parade float and also for the appropriate apparel that she had chosen for the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:50 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Cloud to enter into Executive Session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate and to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceeding by or against the board or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. Present for the session were Mayor VanLandingham, Council Members Cloud, Douglas, Gwaltney, Gilliard, and Thornton; City Attorney Lehman; City Manager Addleton; and City Clerk Lee. At 7:50 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Douglas to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, 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.

APPROVED:

**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM
MAYOR**

ATTEST:

CAROLYN B. LEE, CITY CLERK