

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR AND COUNCIL – DECEMBER 14, 2015

The December 14, 2015 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 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, Fire Chief Bill Schafer, and Asst. City Clerk Sandra Roberts. Also present for the meeting was incoming Councilman, Jerry L. Cox. Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, was also in attendance.

**Invocation:** The Invocation was given by Councilman Cloud.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Regular Council Meeting - November 23, 2015.** Motion to approve minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **Delegations:**

**Grady County Administrator Carlos Tobar – Service Delivery Strategy.** Mr. Tobar addressed the Council's concerns regarding the service delivery strategy. County Commissioner T. D. David was also present and explained that many hours had been spent to produce the information that was requested, adding that changes could be made year to year if there was a need. After further discussion it was decided that the City and County Finance Committees would meet and go over the areas of concern.

### **Special Events:**

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

**1.) PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 CDBG 13p-x-065-2-5568 Project Completion Eighth Street Neighborhood Sewer, Street, and Drainage Improvements.** The purpose of the hearing was to receive input from the public concerning the project. There were no comments made, and the public hearing was closed.

**2.) PUBLIC HEARING – Conditional Use Request for an Air Conditioned Storage within C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) 210 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S.E., Tax Map C19, Parcel 25 – Owner, Capital City Bank.** The purpose of the hearing was to receive input from the public concerning the conditional use request. There were no comments made, and the public hearing was closed.

**3.) Consider Conditional Use Request for an Air Conditioned Storage within C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District) 210 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S. E., Tax Map C19, Parcel 25 – Owner, Capital City Bank.** Motion to approve the conditional use request was made by Councilman Gilliard, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**4.) Consider CSX Facility Encroachment Agreement.** After review and discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to enter into the agreement to complete the project

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with a one-time \$500.00 encroachment fee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**5.) Consider Change to Public Safety Narrow Banding Equipment.** Chief Bill Schafer explained that the existing VHF system was not reliable as there was interference and dead spots around the county. It had been proposed by Motorola, to Grady and Decatur Counties, to convert to a 700/800 megahertz system, which is the same as that used in most surrounding counties. If Grady and Decatur County convert to the new system, it would cause the City of Cairo to be isolated and have difficulty communicating with 911 and other public agencies. The cost of converting to the new system would be \$166,879.50. After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to agree to convert to the new narrow banding system, contingent upon Decatur and Grady Counties converting, and enter into an intergovernmental agreement when necessary. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed by all Council Members.

**6.) Consider the 2016 Georgia Classic Main Street Program Memorandum of Understanding.** After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to enter into the agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**7.) Consider Downtown Streetscape Project.** City Manager Addleton informed council members that only one bid had been received from A. C. Blount Concrete Services, Inc. in the amount of \$1,505,103.41. After reviewing the bid Robert and Company recommended that the city reject the bid and re-advertise. The council discussed and agreed that the bid should be rejected and the project re-advertised the last two weeks of December.

**8.) Consider Airport Water Plant Project.** City Manager Addleton explained that six bidders and alternates had submitted bids. After reviewing the bids, Watkins and Associates had recommended awarding the bid to Bates Engineers/Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$4,180,843. It was also discussed that the City could possibly do some of the work if it would be cost beneficial and the time was available. Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to award the bid to Bates Engineers/Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$4,180,843. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**9.) Consider Planning Commission Nominees.** Motion to reappoint Larry Brown and Larry Simmons to the Planning Commission was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gilliard, and passed unanimously by all Council Members. (New terms to expire 12/31/2020).

**10.) Consider Downtown Development Authority.** (Councilman Cloud, as a member of the Authority, entered the audience and did not participate in discussion or voting on this item). Motion to reappoint Ernest Cloud and Nola Daughtry to the Downtown Develop Authority was made by Councilman Gilliard, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and passed by all Council Members voting. (New terms to expire 12/31/2021).

**11.) Consider Calendar for City Council Meetings in 2016.** Motion to approve the calendar was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**12.) Other Business:**

**13.) Reports:**

**a.) Departmental Reports:** Council reviewed without comment.

**b.) Finance Report for the Month of September 2015.** Motion to approve the report was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**c.) City Manager:** **1.)** Picnic tables, trash cans, and playground equipment had been installed at Azalea Park. **2.)** Resurfacing of MLK Jr., Ave. would begin the following Monday. **3.)** Contractors were working at the Hilltop water tank. **4.)** A letter from the MLK Jr. Collaborative had been received regarding the parade on 1/18/16. **5.)** The Chamber Annual Meeting was to be held 1/28/16 at 6:30 pm. **6.)** The City Christmas luncheon was to be held on Thursday at 11:30 am.

**d.) Reports from Mayor & Council:** Councilman Cloud asked that the overhead street sign at Broad and MLK be changed from MLK Jr. Blvd. to MLK Jr. Ave. He also noted that during parades no candy should be thrown from moving vehicles and that the snowflake Christmas ornaments needed to be painted or replaced. Each of the Councilmen expressed their appreciation to Councilman Gilliard for his dedication to the City during his eight years of service.

Mr. Leverage Whigham asked to address the Council regarding the recent discussion on tiny houses. He was told that a moratorium was in effect at this time and a proposed ordinance would be reviewed in the future. He expressed his belief that having tiny houses in the City of Cairo, as well as mobile homes, was not a good idea. He also inquired about the different electric rates. City Manager Addleton offered to set up a time to discuss the rates with him.

**14.) Adjourn.** Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**ROBERT B. BURNS, SR., MAYOR**

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**SANDRA P. ROBERTS, ASST. CITY CLERK**