

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard VanLandingham on September 25, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall. Present for the meeting were Mayor Pro Tem James H. Douglas, Council Members Bobby Gwaltney, Ernest W. Cloud, Jr., and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Kermit V. Gilliard, Jr. was absent from the meeting. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Chris Addleton, City Clerk Carolyn Lee, Executive Assistant Donna Young, and Finance Director Cecil Rash. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind was also in attendance.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was given by Councilman Douglas.

**Ordinance to Set 2008 Ad Valorem Tax Millage.** After review of the Ordinance, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adopt the ordinance to set the millage at 7.49 net mills (12.89 gross mills less 5.40 mills sales tax credit) and to add language on the tax bills to notify taxpayers that should the Homeowners' Tax Relief Credit not be funded by the state, a second bill would be sent to homeowners to recover the unreimbursed amount. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gwaltney and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

**Award of Bids on Buchanan Street Project.** City Manager Addleton advised that both aluminum arches as well as a pre-stressed concrete bridge with pilings had been considered for the culvert replacement. There were some issues with the wings on the aluminum arches, so plans had been modified to incorporate concrete end walls that would be constructed by City crews. Two bids for material and assembly were received on the aluminum arch option, one from Contech Bridge Solutions in the amount of \$58,599, and the low bid from Southeast Culvert in the amount of \$44,190 (Neither bid included removal of the existing pipes which would be done by City crews). One bid in the amount of \$144,739 for the concrete bridge was received from Southern Concrete. The aluminum design would meet the 100-year flood frequency and would handle three to four times the volume of the previous pipes, while the concrete bridge would handle more water and exceed the 100-year flood frequency. Delivery time was approximately the same with both options. Given the cost difference between the two options and the nature of the normal flow of the stream, staff recommended to award the bid for the aluminum arch option to the lowest bidder, Southeast Culvert, in the amount of \$44,190, to be paid for with funds from the MEAG Competitive Trust Fund. Council Members discussed funding options. It was hoped that there would be some reimbursement from FEMA, and the project would also qualify for SPLOST funding which would not be received in time for the payment but could be used as reimbursement. City Manager Addleton stated the need to go ahead and order materials so that the project could be finished by the end of October. Councilman Cloud urged the Council to also give attention to the need for an alternate exit in the northwest section of town and asked if the Competitive Trust Fund could be used for that project rather than waiting for a grant, with Finance Director Rash pointing out that premium tax would be received in October and could possibly be used. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the aluminum arch option and award the bid to the low bidder, Southeast Culvert, in the amount of \$44,190. Motion was seconded by Councilman Douglas and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**RICHARD VANLANDINGHAM**  
**MAYOR**

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**CAROLYN B. LEE**  
**CITY CLERK**