

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JUNE 8, 2009

The June 8, 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, and City Clerk Carolyn B. Lee. Cairo Messenger Reporter, Darrell Mudra, was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Cloud.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a.) **May 28, 2009 Regular Meeting.** Motion to approve was made by Councilman Cloud, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

b.) **May 28, 2009 Budget Workshop Meeting.** Motion to approve was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS: None

SPECIAL EVENT:

Special Event Request from Ms. Cindy Runion, Thomasville YMCA Fusion All-Star Cheerleaders to sell legalized Georgia sparklers as a fundraiser on the WalMart Parking lot from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., June 26 through July 5, 2009. The group had provided Certificate of Insurance with the City of Cairo as Certificate Holder, a letter from Walmart Operations Manager, a layout for the tent placement & signage, Certificate of Flame Resistance for the tent, and a list of sparklers to be sold. Council discussed, noting that it would have been more appropriate if a local non-profit group had made the request. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Cloud, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Test Well – Engineer Stacy Watkins. Mr. Watkins was present to update the Council on the test well and informed them that the well was not producing the flow quantity that was needed. He added that 1,000 gallons per minute had been sought; and he would accept 750 per minute; but the test well was only producing around 250. Quality samples had been sent to the lab, but results were not back yet. He recommended moving farther south on the property and digging a second test well which would take around 30 days. The groundwater tank would be located in the same location as originally planned, but water would have to be pumped farther to it from a new well site. FAA approval was still pending on the above-ground storage tank. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Thornton to approve the drilling of a second test well at a cost not to exceed that of the first well. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cloud and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Proposed Budget. There were two citizens

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present, Mr. Alan Kaye and Mr. Joe Jennette, both of whom encouraged the Council to appropriate more funding for the library. Mr. Kaye asked that services be considered rather than what the other government entities did. He also presented a letter in support of this request from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Matturro. Mr. Kaye was reminded that the City had agreed to provide 50% of his minimum funding request, but could not at the present time commit to any additional funds. It was suggested that he go back to the other two entities, along with supporters of the library, urging them to provide their 25% shares. Also suggested was the implementation of a program for donations by supporters.

Consider Revisions on FY 2009-2010 Proposed Budget. City Manager Addleton presented revisions made since the last workshop meeting regarding final cost increases for employee healthcare and retirement. It was learned that an additional \$50,000 would need to be added to the healthcare increase already put in place, for a total increase of over \$300,000. Annual retirement contributions would increase from \$382,481 to \$726,170 resulting in a 90% increase due to the decline in investment markets. An alternative retirement contribution method was offered by GMA that would allow members to adopt a gradual increase to the higher funding by deferring contributions until future valuations. However, the deferral would also result in a decrease in the future funded status of the plan; and payments would only be deferred. Council Members discussed the alternative method but did not want to defer the liability to another Council. City Manager Addleton had also removed the \$1,172,000 depreciation from the budget showing a surplus of revenue to cover the additional increased expenses. Also adjusted were some Electric revenues and costs. Contributions to other agencies had also been adjusted. The total proposed budget was \$36,089,170.

Consider Updating Employee Personnel Policy with Current Family and Medical Leave Regulations. City Manager Addleton advised that the regulations which were published by the U. S. Department of Labor clarified certain issues in the Act as well as adding new requirements and two new types of Family and Medical Leave. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to approve the updates, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Annual Meeting Proxy – GMEBS-WCSIF-GIRMA. The annual meeting was to be held in conjunction with the GMA Convention in Savannah on Sunday, June 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom A of the Westin Hotel. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide an update on activities that occurred during the past year for employee benefit and risk management programs as well as provide a status report on the financial condition of each program. The proxy appointing Mayor Keith Brady, Chairman, or Mayor Mickey Thompson, Vice Chairman as agent would allow the boards of trustees to represent the City's interest in the absence of its representative in any issue which might require a vote of the membership. The power to revoke the proxy at any time before it was voted would be retained, and should the City choose to represent itself at the meeting, the proxy could be revoked prior to any votes being cast. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cloud to appoint City Manager Addleton as the City's designated representative and to give him the authority to appoint the proxy, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

Other Business:

Consider State Department of Transportation Contract for Obstruction Removal and Clearing at Runway 31 Approach for the Airport. City Manager Addleton referred to the recently awarded bid for this project that was contingent upon Federal and State grant approval. The Department of Transportation Contract had been received for execution. The total maximum obligation of Federal Funds for this contract was 95% at \$81,025.00, the State at 2.5% - \$2,132.00,

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and the City at 2.5% - \$2,132.00. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Douglas to approve the contract, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

City Manager's Report:

City Manager Addleton reported on his research regarding personal care homes for which the Council had issued a 60-day moratorium, stating that inspections and compliance were regulated by the State. Unless laws were broken, the City had no jurisdiction. He recommended removing personal care homes as a use in the single-family residential zones where they were currently a conditional use. Attorney Lehman advised that the use should probably remain in the R-2 and R-3 zones as a conditional use. Mayor VanLandingham suggested looking at a zoning map that designated the locations of the homes that were currently in operation. It was agreed to look at this and begin the process to amend the zoning ordinance and, if it became necessary, to extend the moratorium.

He also reported on the recent notice that was sent to CNS customers regarding the upcoming rate change, reinforcing the fact that the increase was necessary due to increased costs incurred by the City. He added that cable was a discretionary service; unlike water, sewer and electric services on which rates did not increase.

Reports:

Building Department Reports

Reports from Mayor & Council:

Mayor VanLandingham requested that someone check on the renovation work being done on Dr. Morton's former office, as it appeared that no progress had been made for some time.

Councilman Thornton asked that the road be repaired at the stop sign on 4th & 4th, NW.

Councilman Gilliard requested that some dirt be hauled in on 11th Ave., NW where road work was being done.

Councilman Cloud stated that he would like to get with City Manager Addleton regarding the 4th Ave., SW project.

Councilman Douglas reported that grass had been mowed inside the fence at the well on MacIvor, but not around the outside or in the ditches.

Executive Session: None

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

Approved:

Richard VanLandingham
Mayor

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Attest:

Carolyn B. Lee
City Clerk