

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JUNE 14, 2021

The June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Howard Thrower, III. Present were Demario Byrden, James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Jerry Cox, Sr. was absent from the meeting. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addeleon, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Dana W. Barfield. Also in attendance was Cairo Messenger Editor Randy Wind.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Thrower.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 24, 2021 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve minutes was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

Barbara McDuffie and Erica Hunter – Budget. Barbara McDuffie of 1411 Russell Drive, Bainbridge, GA addressed the Mayor and Council concerning President Biden’s Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government. Ms. McDuffie stated that there was funding through the Funding Act that was given for underserved communities. Ms. McDuffie went on to say that the executive order states that we should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all black people and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Ms. McDuffie stated that they are asking the City of Cairo to appoint a point person to work with the black community to develop recommendations and form a dialog of what the needs are and how they can be addressed with the money that the Federal Government has already sent down to local governments.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Considered Special Event Permit – Cason Fun Day (Reunion) at 1220 2nd Avenue SW on Sunday, July 4, 2021 from 6:00 am – 12:00 am, Derrick Cason – Applicant. Mrs. Mary Mills addressed the Mayor and Council due to Mr. Cason not being able to be present due to work. Mrs. Mills stated that they changed the time of the event from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Motion to approve special event with time change was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – Rezoning Request from R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) for the Property Identified on Grady County Tax Map C14, Parcel 181 at the Vacant Location off 2nd Street SW, Applicants: M. Jeanette Johnson/Charlita James. Charlita James asked the Mayor and Council to approve the rezoning of a vacant lot on 2nd Street SW. Ms. James stated that she had gotten signatures from the local residents on 2nd Street SW that were in agreement of the rezoning. - Natashalita Gee also addressed the Mayor and Council stating that this was property that their Great-Grandfather and other family members were raised on, and as well as other property along 2nd Street SW. Ms. Gee went on to express how she and her sister would like to live and raise their family there as well. – Willie Myles of 425 Church Street also addressed the Mayor and Council stating that last year he purchased his property that is located behind the property that is being requested to be rezoned. Mr. Myles stated that once he moved in and mowed the over growth and started maintaining the property, it brought up the other property value and also helped the other property owners take initiative in their own property.

Considered Rezoning Request for R-1A (Single-Family Residential District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) for the Property Identified on Grady County Tax Map C14, Parcel 181 at the Vacant Location off 2nd Street SW, Applicants: M. Jeanette Johnson/Charlita James. Councilman Douglas stated that based on the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission’s recommendation of denying the request to rezone the property, he made a motion to deny the request of rezoning, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and denied by all Council Members present.

Public Hearing – Proposed Annexation and Initial Zoning Request as R-1A (Single-Family Residential District), Located Adjacent to the Present City Limits on Upper Hawthorne Trail

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Identified as Grady County Tax Map 52, a 1500' x 250' Portion of Parcel 31. Applicant: Blair Enterprises, LLC (Chuck Thomas). Chuck Thomas representing Blair Enterprises, LLC addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the Annexation and Zoning of property on upper Hawthorne Trail. Councilman Douglas asked how difficult and costly it would be to connect the property to city sewer. Mr. Thomas stated that he wished it was there today, but they would have water by the end of the year and right now he did not know if they would be able to connect to sewer in a timely manner. Councilman Gwaltney asked if the soil had been tested and would perk, Mr. Thomas replied yes it had been tested and was fine to build on. Councilman Gwaltney also asked if the homes would have to go on a liftstation if they ever were put on city sewer. City Manager Addleton responded that he felt that it would gravity flow but it would be required to have a liftstation.

Considered Proposed Annexation and Initial Zoning Request as R-1A (Single-Family Residential District), Located Adjacent to the Present City Limits on Upper Hawthorne Trail Identified as Grady County Tax Map 52, a 1500' x 250' Portion of Parcel 31. Applicant: Blair Enterprises, LLC (Chuck Thomas). Motion to approve annexation and initial zoning request made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members present.

Considered Approval of Final FY 2021-2022 Budget – Motion to approve Final FY 2021-2022 Budget of \$41,177,543 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members present.

Considered Introduction of Budget Ordinance for FY 2021-2022. Ordinance was introduced.

Considered Appointment of Robert Dykes to the Downtown Development Authority Executive Board. Motion to approve Mr. Dykes to the DDA was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members present.

Consider 2021 Alcoholic Beverage Renewal Applications. Motion to approve the Alcoholic Beverage Renewal Applications was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members present.

Considered Resolution to Recognize June 19, 2021 as JUNETEENTH. Motion to approve Resolution to Recognize June 19, 2021 as JUNETEENTH was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members present.

REPORTS:

- 1. Considered Departmental Reports for the Month of May 2020**
- 2. Reports from City Manager:**
 - East Coast Pyrotechnics cannot provide fireworks for the 4th of July due to lack of manpower.
 - The appraisal for the D.O.L. is scheduled.
 - The Mayor has signed the American Recovery Act Fund and we should see funds in the next couple of weeks.
- 3. Reports from Mayor and Council:**
 - Councilman Thornton stated that a 4-Way Stop needs to be put up at 4th Street SW and 1st Avenue SW.
 - Councilman Byrden stated that there is a stop sign down at 1st Street and 7th Avenue SW. He also stated that on 1st Street SW and Church Street there are no sidewalks and there are several bus stops and the children have nowhere to stand waiting on the bus other than in the street.
 - Councilman Douglas stated that the Oliver Lane's parking lot had high grass and trash that needed cleaning up.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK

HOWARD THROWER, III, MAYOR