

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – OCTOBER 9, 2023

The October 9, 2023, Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Booker T. Gainor, IV presiding. Present were Councilmen Jerry L. Cox, Sr., Demario Bryden, James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney, and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Julian Brown, and Susan C. Hamby. Cairo Messenger Reporter Mesha Wind was also in attendance.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Booker T. Gainor, IV.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – September 25, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Consider Special Event Permit – Fall Festival on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Requesting Street Closures on Portions of 10th Avenue NW and 1st Street Northwest Adjacent to Northside Elementary School. Amanda Redden/Northside Elementary – Applicants. Motion to approve the Fall Festival was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Motion to approve the date change to November 2, 2023 was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider Special Event Permit – Kicking for Kidney on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Azalea Park, Sabrina Booker – Applicant. Mayor Gainor suggested to postpone until the next council meeting on October 23, 2023 so more information could be obtained from the applicant. Motion to postpone Kicking for Kidney to the next council meeting was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2023. Motion to approve the Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2023 was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider Municipal Competitive Trust (MCT) Withdrawal. City Manager Brown recommended a withdrawal of \$300,000 from the MEAG trust and also expressed the need to order transformers for future storms. Motion to approve the Municipal Competitive Trust (MCT) withdrawal of \$300,000 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider MEAG Supplemental Power Agent. City Manager Brown's recommendation was to name MEAG as the City's agent for the Supplemental Power supply. Mayor Gainor suggested to have an additional person to oversee the process in the event Mr. Prince decides to retire with City Manager Brown in agreement. Motion to approve MEAG to be named as the City's agent for the Supplemental Power supply was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider Application for a NEW Alcoholic Beverage License – 1001 L and M LLC DBA L and M Food Mart – Beer and Wine – Retail Package at 1001 5th Street NE, Cairo, GA. Applicant – Hemaben Anilkumar Patel. Motion to approve the Alcohol License for 1001 L and M LLC DBA L and M Food Mart located at 1001 5th Street NE was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

CONSIDER DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2023:

- Councilman Cox asked how staffing was at the Police Department with City Manager Brown responding that there was a cadet who was almost finished at the academy; another who should be going to the academy and a third person who was hired last week and started the ride along. Councilman Cox also asked if there were any applicants for the Fire Department with City Manager Brown responding that there had been some interest. There is a class going on right now and out of the eighteen taking the class, he believes six have applied. He also stated there are two openings with the Fire Department.

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- Councilman Douglas commented about staying on top of the dilapidated structures. City Manager Brown responded that there are three from February that is about to sell, and the owner has contacted the building department about tearing them down. Councilman Douglas also mentioned about an ongoing case located at 1036 6th Avenue NW.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

- City Manager Brown mentioned there will be an opening for the Planning Commission in the new year and has had a few calls with interest. A new person will need to be approved before the beginning of the new year.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Councilman Douglas mentioned about making sure campaign signs were not on the right of way with City Manager Brown responding he was trying to watch this but thinks the majority are private. Councilman Douglas also stated the need to stay on Taylor Waste about trash pickup; especially on Highway 84. He expressed his concern that it makes the City look trashy when people ride through Cairo. Mayor Gainor expressed his concern about a trash pile on Highway 84 across from Stones that could be a hazard. He said there is a side street where debris could be placed. Mayor Gainor asked if any red tag updates had been received, of trash being missed with City Manager Brown responding that the city office keeps up with that.
- Councilman Thornton asked City Manager Brown to check on changing the yield sign to a stop sign where Highway 84 veers onto North Broad Street with City Manager Brown responding he would look into it.
- Councilman Gwaltney asked if the City had some assistance on the storm clean up with City Manager Brown stating yes, Thomas Tree Service came in for two days.
- Mayor Gainor shared his concern that there are cars still parking around the curve at Scott's Tasty Chicken where the yellow painted lines are. He also stated he had received multiple calls concerning the overgrown abandoned lot across from the old Clarks Transmission off of 4th Street SW. Mayor Gainor also stated he was contacted concerning the church that does a turkey give away to the public, the street is closed off but with the new policy changes, the increased fees have hurt their bottom line in being able to provide this for the community. Councilman Douglas recommended to amend the policy for this and when future special events come before the council, decide whether to waive the fee at that time. Councilman Byrden suggested looking at special events like the Back to School event that gives to the community as well.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, a motion was made at 6:25 pm by Councilman Cox and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, IV, MAYOR

SUSAN C. HAMBY