

## **REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – OCTOBER 23, 2023**

The October 23, 2023, Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Attorney Tom Lehman, and City Clerk Dana W. Barfield. Cairo Messenger Editor Randy 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 Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting – October 9, 2023.** Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**DELEGATIONS:**

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**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.** Ms. Sabrina Booker of 1259 Harlem Drive, Cairo GA, explained to the Mayor and Council that she suffered from kidney failure and wanted to do a fundraiser to attempt to raise funds for herself and others like her who were in the same situation. Ms. Booker said she had others in surrounding cities that would help and would be donating the funds to the dialysis facility that she currently uses.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Consider Part-Time Firefighter Positions.** City Manager Brown explained that he and Fire Chief Prince had discussed hiring part-time firefighters. He felt that it was a good idea because this was a way to reduce overtime, it opened up opportunities to evaluate future employees among other things. Councilman Cox asked Chief Prince if he had a number or pool in mind. Chief Prince stated that he thought they would start off with five certified positions first and see how that worked. He went on to say that the cost would be very minimal to the city in order to start it up, there would be no additional cost to the city's workers comp. and the only other cost would be purchasing a few sets of turnout gear. Councilman Thornton added that he liked the fact that it would cut down on overtime cost. Councilman Byrden asked if each person would have to be certified, with Chief Prince stating that his plan was for the person to be certified state of Georgia firefighters so that when they came in the door, they were ready to work. Councilman Douglas said this would be a person that has a fulltime job in a different city and would be available on their time off to work a shift for Cairo. Councilman Thornton asked how many hours the part-time employees were going to make a pay period. Chief Prince said that one of the cities he spoke with said they keep it to one shift per pay period in order to keep from having to pay overtime. He said they would keep it under 106 hours and that would prevent us from having to pay them overtime as a part-time employee. Councilman Cox asked if current leadership would remain as is, Chief Prince stated yes, these employees would all come in as firefighters. Motion to approve the hiring of five part-time firefighter positions and more if needed was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Consider Park Times and Ordinance Introduction.** City Manager Brown explained that in previous meetings it had been discussed to change the hours that city parks were open. Councilman Douglas said he felt that 11:00 pm was too late for Davis and Azalea Park to close because there were homes around the park, even with lighting at the parks the homeowners would not want the lights in their homes at that hour. Mayor Gainor stated that he really did not see a need to change the hours. Councilman Byrden said he could see that 11:00 pm might be a little too late for some of the parks but when you say "sunset" when time changes that could be at 6:00 and a lot of people are not off from work then, therefore, it is not fair to the taxpayers because they are not able to use it. Councilman Byrden said that it does not get dark until 8:00 pm or 9:00 pm and he could understand if the council wanted to change it from 11:00 pm to 9:00 pm. He went on to say that if he or someone else did not get off until after 6:00pm they should be able to go to the track at Southern Terrace and use it without being in violation. Councilman Douglas said that he felt 9:00 pm was better for the neighbors at Southern Terrace. The council agreed to keep Davis and Azalea Park's hours the same and change Southern Terrace Park's to sunrise to 9:00 pm. An ordinance will be brought back to the next meeting for introduction.

**Consider Application for a NEW Alcoholic Beverage License – The Carousel Sports Bar & Grill, LLC – Beer and Wine, Retail Consumption on Premises and Liquor, Retail Pouring at 156 S. Broad Street, Cairo, GA. Applicant-Andrea Lynn Copeland.** Motion to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License for The Carousel Sports Bar & Grill, LLC was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

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**REPORTS:**

**REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:**

- Glidden Antique Car Tour will be coming through town Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. They will be at the Cultural Center and will be seeing a movie at the Zebulon.
- This week is Red Ribbon Week, there will be prayer on the courthouse lawn Wednesday.

**REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

- Councilman Cox said at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW there was a shrub that needed to be cut back.
- Mayor Gainor presented a proclamation to Mrs. Jan Westburg on behalf of all retired educators, declaring October 23, 2023, as Retired Educators Day. Mayor Gainor thanked all educators for their tireless efforts and endless knowledge that they have bestowed upon all the young minds that had passed through their classrooms.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, a motion was made at 6:23 pm by Councilman Douglas and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the meeting.

**APPROVED**

**ATTEST:**

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**BOOKER T. GAINOR, IV, MAYOR**

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**DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK**