

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

The September 25, 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 Demario Bryden, Jerry Cox, Sr., James H. Douglas, and Lannis Thornton. Councilman Robert L. Gwaltney was absent from the meeting. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Julian Brown, City Attorney Tom Lehman, and City Clerk Dana 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 Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – September 11, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

DELEGATIONS:

Frank Bastos and Friedrich Mursch – Use of the Airport for a Fly-In and Remote-Control Crawler Event. Mr. Bastos and Mr. Mursch explained to the council that they flew remote-controlled airplanes and would like to hold an event at the Cairo Airport. Mr. Bastos said that he had put together several events before, his largest being close to 1,000 people. They would hold events that included remote-controlled airplanes and racecars that would only travel approximately 3-5 mph. He said he would like for people to be able to set up along the roadway and campout each day until the event concluded. They both felt they would have participants from all over the country participating in the event and from the surrounding area because they were well known in the flying community. Mr. Bastos added that all proceeds from any camping fees, entry fees, or vendor fees would all go to the city, his company was not putting on the event for a profit. City Manager Brown said that closing the airport would not be a problem, but they would need some type of barricade to prevent children from coming onto the runway. The council were all in agreement that Mr. Bastos and Mr. Mursch should proceed with a Special Event Permit to start the process for the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING – TAX MILLAGE RATE INCREASE The City of Cairo has tentatively adopted a millage rate of 8.689, which will require an increase in property taxes by 12.20% over the 2023 rollback rate. The proposed tax increase for homes with a fair market value of \$100,000 with homestead exemption of \$2,000 is approximately \$39.20. The property tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$250,000 is approximately \$100. The public hearing was opened to the public, after no public comment the hearing was closed. There was no public input, therefore the hearing was closed.

Consider Setting a Final 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate. Motion to approve the 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate at 8.689 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

Consider Introduction of Ordinance to Levy and Authorize the Collection of a General Ad Valorem Tax for the Year 2023. Ordinance was Introduced.

Consider Revisions to City of Cairo Park Permit, Special Event Permit, and Block Parties. City Manager Brown explained that he had spoken with a GIRMA representative, and it would be \$200 to purchase event liability insurance. Mayor Gainor asked if the customer would purchase the insurance through the city, City Manager Brown responded the city would purchase the insurance if the council chose to go that route. Councilman Cox asked when the city holds an event downtown were they covered. City Manager Brown said yes, but when citizens have private events, no. The city has insurance, but it is not event insurance. Mayor Gainor said he felt there was a grey area where deciding whether an event was private or public and felt there would be individuals that would not be totally honest about it. He went on to say he did not have a problem with the changes as long as there was a good understanding as to what was a private event and what was public. Councilman Thornton asked if someone wanted to close off the street for an event would that also be \$250, City Manager Brown replied yes, that would be a special event. Councilman Douglas said he felt the permits could be approved but would like more clarification on what was considered public and private events. Motion to approve the Revised City of Cairo Park Permits for Park Rentals, Special Event Permits, Block Parties and Rules and Regulations was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox and passed unanimously by all Council Members present.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

- There will be a pre-construction meeting September 26th for the CDBG Project for the southwest section of town.
- We have job openings in the police and fire departments for certified or uncertified candidates.

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REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Councilman Thornton said his district needed mowing.
- Mayor Gainor said some people did not understand why Taylor Waste was not picking up the debris after the storm, but in his contract, it states that he is not required to pick up debris from acts of God. In our work session from July 31st Councilman Thornton raised the question of waiving the tipping fees at the landfill for Taylor Waste. Mayor Gainor then asked since it was the southwest section that was impacted and their pickup was on Friday would it be more cost effective to waive the tipping fees on Friday, rather than bringing in an outside contractor. City Manager Brown said that the tipping fees were waived for storm debris and a contractor was brought in starting Monday and should have it cleaned withing the next three days.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, a motion was made at 6:39 pm by Councilman Cox and seconded by Councilman Douglas to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOER, IV, MAYOR

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK