

## REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – DECEMBER 11, 2023

The December 11, 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, City Clerk Dana W. Barfield, Building Official Brian Hayes, Attorney Tom Lehman, Fire Chief Cole Prince, Utilities Director Rod Prince, Police Chief Giovannie Santos, and Main Street Director Shelly Searcy. 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 – November 13, 2023.** Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **DELEGATIONS:**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Consider Downtown Street Closure Form – “Cairo Represents” Mural – Friday, January 5, 2024, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Mural Unveiling Reception. Please see the map for road closures. Shelly Searcy/Cairo Main Street - Applicants.** Motion to approve the “Cairo Represents” Mural event was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Main Street Director Searcy asked if the time could be changed to start at 6:00 pm rather than 7:00 pm. The motion was amended for the event to start at 6:00 pm by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Cox, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Consider 2024 City Council Meeting Calendar.** City Manager Brown explained that the 2024 City Council Meeting Calendar made note of possible cancellations for meetings in June, November, and December due to conferences or holidays. Motion to approve the 2024 City Council Meeting Calendar was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Conditional Use Request for a Home Occupation within R-1A (Single-Family Residential District), Located at 2540 Pecan Drive, NE; identified as County Tax Map C39A, Parcel 18. Applicant – Wendy and Darrell Griffin, DBA Soulshine Designs, LLC.** Wendy Griffin of 2540 Pecan Drive, Cairo, GA said that she and her husband applied for a business license and were told in order to operate a business in their home they would first need to apply for a conditional use permit. She went on to add that they had also applied and received their EIN number from the IRS. With there being no other public input, the hearing was closed.

**Consider Conditional Use Request for a Home Occupation within R-1A (Single-Family Residential District), Located at 2540 Pecan Drive, NE; identified as County Tax Map C39A, Parcel 18. Applicant – Wendy and Darrell Griffin, DBA Soulshine Designs, LLC.** Motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 2540 Pecan Drive NE was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Councilman Cox said he wanted to make sure that the Griffins understood that any violations of the permit could result in the permit being rescinded.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Conditional Use Request for a Home Occupation within R-1A (Single-Family Residential District), Located at 1500 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NW; identified as County Tax Map C1, Parcel 46. Applicant – Andrew Ingram.** Andrew Ingram of 1500 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Cairo, GA explained that he would not be working out of his home, his business would be operated out of his truck doing handyman work. Councilman Cox said that Mr. Ingram was his neighbor and had spoken with him about his plans and did not feel that there would be any problems; he also had spoken with the neighbors, and they felt the same. With there being no other public input, the hearing was closed.

**Consider Conditional Use Request for a Home Occupation within R-1A (Single-Family Residential District), Located at 1500 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NW; identified as County Tax Map C1, Parcel 46. Applicant – Andrew Ingram.** Motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 1500 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW

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was made by Councilman Gwaltney, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Councilman Cox said the same would apply with this permit, he instructed Mr. Ingram to say within what was approved or the permit could result in being rescinded.

**Consider Pad Mount Inspection and MCT Withdrawal.** City Manager Brown stated that every ten years the city is required to have a Pad Mount Inspection completed. Normally Southern Wood Pole Inspection performs this work for the city and gave an estimate of \$91,000. He went on to explain that \$93,600 had been budgeted for the work to be done and would be funded by the MCT Fund. He and Utility Director Rod Prince had discussed the project, and his recommendation was to withdraw \$93,000 from the MCT Fund and approve Southern Wood Pole Inspection to perform the pad mount inspection for the city. Motion to approve an MCT Withdrawal of \$91,000 for the Pad Mount Inspection was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Consider Juneteenth Holiday.** City Manager Brown said that currently the city does not have Juneteenth on the holiday schedule. He said the holiday was recognized nationally and that several municipalities were adding this day to their schedules. He went on to explain that if added the city would have to honor the holiday pay for police officers and firefighters, and emergency call outs would also add cost if employees were called in. He said it was his recommendation that Juneteenth be added to the city's holiday calendar. Motion to approve the adding Juneteenth to the city's holiday calendar was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023.**

- No Comments.

#### **REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:**

- City offices will be closed December 25 & 26, as well as January 1.
- December 25 Council Meeting has been cancelled.

#### **REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

- Councilman Byrden expressed his appreciation for Councilmen Cox, Gwaltney, and Thornton. He went on to thank them for their service to the city and for being a mentor to him as he became a council member.
- Councilman Byrden asked about the hydrants with red and black bonnets around town and voiced his concerns about them. He said the black bonnets on fire hydrants meant there was no water flowing to them and red meant very little pressure. Councilman Byrden went on to add that these hydrants needed to be repaired because it was unnecessary for firemen to have to drop extra hose to reach a working hydrant in order to save someone's home.
- Councilman Douglas said that he appreciated working with Councilmen Cox, Gwaltney, and Thornton, they may not have always agreed on things but always left as friends.
- Councilman Douglas went on to say that Thursday night at the Christmas parade there were several floats that were throwing candy even though the entry form the Chamber of Commerce provided clearly stated they were not supposed to. He added that float entries may need to sign some type of form concerning the candy throwing because he felt someone was going to get hurt running out into the road trying to pick it up.
- Councilman Thornton thanked all city department heads for all they had done for him and always responding promptly when he called. He never had a problem getting things done.
- Councilman Gwaltney said it had been a pleasure to have worked with the city leaders, they had always been very prompt in responding when he called. He went on to add that it had been a pleasure to have served the city for the last twenty-four years.
- Councilman Cox said that the city was strong, it had a great staff and he hoped that it continued to grow. He said he had enjoyed serving the city these last eight years.
- Mayor Gainor thanked all three councilmembers for their service and for all that they had done to move our city forward.

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**Mayor Gainor presented Councilmen Cox, Gwaltney, and Thornton with plaques in appreciation for their dedication and years of service to the City of Cairo.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, a motion was made at 6:26 pm by Councilman Byrden and seconded by Councilman Cox to adjourn the meeting.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**BOOKER T. GAINOR, IV**

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**DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK**