

## **REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

The February 26, 2024, Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Booker T. Gainor, IV presiding. Present were Councilmembers James H. Douglas, Timothy Gurley, Annette Higdon, and Charles Renaud. Councilman Demario Bryden was present via a Zoom meeting connection. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Julian Brown, City Clerk Dana W. Barfield, and City Attorney Tom Lehman. 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 Renaud, seconded by Councilwoman Higdon, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting – February 12, 2024.** Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilwoman Higdon, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **DELEGATIONS:**

**Belinda Sigler – Order Eastern Stars Bikers Event Masonic Family.** – Did not appear.

**Lisa Adams – Requesting 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW be Changed to C. J. Williams Drive.** – Lisa Adams of 200 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Cairo GA. appeared before council requesting to change 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW to C. J. Williams Drive in memory of her son. She said that he served his community well and to have 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW named after him would be such a great honor. He served his community with the up-most respect, morals, and dignity and she could not think of a better way to honor his memory than to have this done. He wanted to make a change in his community and change the way people viewed police officers. He made time to talk to people in the public, he took time with children and visited families, and this all made a big impact on people. Therefore, she requested to rename 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW to C. J. Williams Drive. Councilman Douglas asked City Manager what was the process in order to have this done. City Attorney Lehman answered that there was not a process in place, that there could be a public hearing done for the residents to appear, but typically streets are named by the party that owns the area. Mayor Gainor said he did not remember having a public hearing in the past for street name changes, however he was not opposed to starting some type of procedure for them. Councilman Renaud agreed that a step-by-step process needed to be put into place. Councilman Gurley complimented Mrs. Adams on doing her due diligence in completing the signature list of the residents who were in agreement of the name change. Motion to approve changing 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW to C. J. Williams Drive contingent on formalized procedure subject to the City Manager and City Attorney's approvals was made by Councilwoman Higdon, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Consider Special Event/Downtown Street Closure – Cairo High School Prom-Sr. Walk, April 13, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Requesting street closures from M. L. K. Avenue SW to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, Students will start gathering at 6:30 pm. Tonnie Gainous & Evelyn Maxwell/Cairo Mainstreet – Applicants.** Motion to approve the CHS Prom-Sr. Walk was made by Councilman Gurley, seconded by Councilman Renaud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Considered Special Event Permit – Get Grady Reading! The Hunt to Read! March 23, 2024, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Get Grady Reading (Get Georgia Reading) Kids – Birth to Five Years Old. Reading Stations and games for pre-k to fifth grade. Teresa Sigler/Grady Family Connections – Applicants.** Teresa Sigler of 433 Baytree Road, Cairo GA, explained that this event will unite all races and county and city agencies. They will have eleven event tables with a full schedule and will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs to everyone. Sylvia Salgado of 531 S. Broad Street, said she had been volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club and different facilities where they see there is lack of reading. The goal is to get every kid excited about reading and going to school and the best way to do that is coming to them and getting the resources to them. Diane Gurley added that there had been several members of the City of Cairo and community that had come to Decatur/Grady Head Start and it had helped the children tremendously. Motion to approve the Get Grady Reading! Special Event was made by Councilwoman Higdon, seconded by Councilman Gurley, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Consider Rezoning Request to Allow a Zoning change from I-1 Light Industrial District to**

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**R-1 Single-Family Residential District; for the property listed as Tax Map 53, Parcel 13.1 at the location of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S. W. Applicants – John B. Tuggle, Jr. and Charles Renaud.** Motion to remove the item from the table was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Councilman Byrden then offered a motion to approve the zoning. Councilman Douglas then stated that Councilmembers Renaud and Higdon probably should not be present during the discussion. Councilman Renaud stated that he could understand them not being present for the public hearing at the last meeting but did not see a problem be present for the vote if neither of them commented or participated in the conversation. Attorney Lehman said that council ethics says that the two of them should remove themselves from the room during the discussion. At that time Councilmembers Renaud and Higdon left the room. Councilman Douglas then made a motion to second the vote. Councilman Gurley said the information provided looked to be the same as the last meeting. He said that he was in agreement with the rezoning from I-1 to R-1, but under a couple of circumstances. He said at the last meeting it was said that the trees would be removed from the property, and he would like to see signs put up to give caution to the oncoming curve as well as a stop sign at the railroad tracks. City Manager Brown said he had reached out to CSX concerning a stop sign, they requested a number at the tracks that was given to them but have yet to respond back. He added that the city could not go out and put up a stop sign on CSX property without their approval. Councilman Gurley said he understood, but we could do something about the curve and put up the proper signage because he was concerned about someone getting hurt due to the drivers that fly around the curve. After the discussion, all members who were allowed to vote, voted unanimously to approve the rezoning.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Consider Public Works Mower Purchase.** City Manager Brown said the Public Works Department was in need of a new mower for mowing the water plants and lift stations. They had been borrowing a mower from the Community Service Department but with mowing season approaching they will soon have to return this mower. Public Works Director Darin Todd received three quotes with the lowest one being from Ag-Pro, Cairo GA in the amount of \$11,580.83. Motion to approve the purchase of a mower for the Public Works Department from Ag-Pro, Cairo GA in the amount of \$11,580.83 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gurley, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Consider 2024 Alcohol License Renewals.** Motion to approve the 2024 Alcohol License Renewals Presented was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilwoman Higdon, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

**Consider Live Streaming of Council Meetings.** City Manager Brown explained that he had been asked about live streaming at the council meeting. Therefore, he met with Blough-Tech and was instructed that they could install equipment to film meetings for approximately \$3,000. With this equipment, we could also stream the meetings on all city platforms. CNS does not have the ability to live stream the meetings, but they can replay it on the local CNS channel. Motion to approve the live streaming of council meetings was made by Councilwoman Higdon, Councilman Renaud said he would second the motion for the sake of a discussion. He then said that he was fine with putting the meetings out and allowing individuals to be part of the process, but if the meetings were posted on Facebook, he did not think comments should be allowed on the post because it was for informational purposes only. He said he personally liked the fact that the local newspaper could advertise that it would be available and, on this day, and time and it would be on CNS and the public could see firsthand what transpired. Councilman Douglas said that he has been opposed to it in the past and he was opposed to it now. The cost was one thing, but he also did not know many folks that would be interested in watching it being streamed. Councilman Renaud said anyone could come and do it themselves if they wanted to, it was a \$3,000 cost. Councilman Douglas added that you would also need someone to operate the equipment. Mayor Gainor commented that it would be no more than hitting a start button and then sending a link to CNS. Mayor Gainor then asked again who all was in favor, Councilwoman Higdon voted yea, with Councilman Douglas, Gurley, and Renaud voting nay. A response could not be obtained from Councilman Byrden via Zoom.

### REPORTS:

#### REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

- Airport parking lot bid opening will be March 5<sup>th</sup> there was a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting last week online and there were several attendees, so we are hoping we may receive some competitive bids.
- The CNS Scroll will no longer be brought to the City Manager's office. If someone would like to put an announcement on the scroll, they will need to send it to [cairoscroll@cnsnext.com](mailto:cairoscroll@cnsnext.com).

#### REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

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- Councilman Renaud said that he attended a realtor meeting last week in Bainbridge, GA and they discussed affordable housing coming to Cairo.
- Councilman Gurley asked about trees being trimmed on Culpepper Drive SE and thanked City Manager for having the guys bring dirt to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. He also added that there was a streetlight out on Muggridge Lane and asked if guardrails could be put up on Buchanan Street by the ponds due to safety concerns.
- Councilwoman Higdon said she had received comments about the park rentals for special events being too high for church and non-profit events and would like to discuss this at some point.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, a motion was made at 6:45 pm by Councilman Douglas and seconded by Councilwoman Higdon to adjourn the meeting.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**BOOKER T. GAINOR, IV**

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**DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK**