

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – MARCH 11, 2024

The March 11, 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 Demario Bryden, James H. Douglas, Timothy Gurley, Annette Higdon, and Charles Renaud. Staff Members in attendance were City Manager Julian Brown, City Clerk Dana W. Barfield, and City Attorney Tom Lehman. Cairo Messenger Reporter Kermit Gilliard 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 Councilman Gurley, and passed unanimously by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – February 26, 2024. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilwoman Higdon, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Consider Special Event Permit – Easter Jam, March 31, 2024, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. Easter Jam for the Kids, Easter Egg Hunt, Vendors, Bounce Houses, and Basketball Tournament. Danetra Siler/Unique One Organization – Applicant. Danetra Siler of 105 Joyner Rd, Apt. F605 explained to the council that she was planning to have an Easter Jam for the kids at Holder Park. They would be having an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Baskets, food, water slides, horse rides, and a basketball tournament with the Baby Syrupmakers; she would also be having vendors set up as well. Councilman Douglas stated that the police chief and community services director had some concerns about the time of the event and the fact that the event that is being held for children turns into and a large adult event. Ms. Siler said that she has nothing to do with an adult event, after 5:00 pm her part in the event will be complete. She explained that that the event would start at 12:00 pm and that there would be an Easter Egg hunt at 4:00 and it would be over at 5:00; she asked for the 7:00 pm ending time to give her vendors a little more selling time. She reiterated that she was not having a block party that she was having an Easter Jam for the kids. Mayor Gainor asked if she would be open to adjusting the times to start a little earlier, with Ms. Siler responding that she chose this time due to people being in church. City Manager Brown asked what the use for the grass lot would be, she stated that they would be using it for parking. Councilman Douglas asked if she was okay with closing the event at 5:00 pm, Ms. Siler said she would rather close at 6:00 pm if she could that way the vendors would have time to pack up and be gone by 7:00 pm. Motion to approve the Easter Jam from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilwoman Higdon, and unanimously approved by all Council Members. Councilman Renaud said that she may want to have a discussion with the vendors about cleanup, Ms. Siler said that they would cleanup as they went but she would also have a cleaning crew come out Monday morning to clean up everything. City Manager Brown added that whoever was bringing the horses also needed to have a cleanup crew with them as well. Councilman Byrden said there were always these questions about events when they were at the park about crowds. He suggested to Ms. Siler to end her event at 5:00 pm because there were already flyers going around about a block party, he understood that that had nothing to do with her event. However, when she came back next year it was going to be assumed that the block party had something to do with her event even though she was trying to do something positive for the kids and community. If she ended it at 5:00 pm and got her event out of there no one could say that she had anything to do with what went on afterwards. Councilman Renaud said that if the police would start at 6:30 pm making sure everyone was aware of what they could and could not do in the city park after the events he felt the problems would become less and less.

Consider Special Event Permit – Growing Grady Farmers Market, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, and Oct. 5, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Community Farmers Market, 1st Saturday of the Month April – October 2024. Cairo Main Street – Applicant. Motion to approve the Growing Grady Farmers Market was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Road Name Change Process. City Manager Brown explained that at the last council meeting a road name change was approved and it was asked that he and the City Attorney discuss and bring back a formal process for renaming streets. City Manager Brown explained the processes that he and City Attorney Lehman came up with. Councilman Byrden said he was ok with everything except that the person had to be deceased for the street to be named after them. Councilman Renaud asked if there

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should be a certain percentage of agreement within the residents who live on the street. Mayor Gainor asked if we were going to use the property owners or the renters, it was agreed that we needed to use the owners of the properties since the renters were more transient. Councilman Douglas agreed that he would also like to see a percentage, with City Attorney Lehman stating there should be at least a 75% majority.

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

Consider Airport Terminal Parking Lot Bids. City Manager Brown explained that on March 5th there was a bid opening held with himself, the Airport Engineer, GDOT Representative, as well as the two contractors that bid who were present. The two companies that bid were Davis Taylor Construction, Inc. and CMI. CMI was the low bidder, however they did not submit all the documents required to be considered. Therefore, the problem with that is DOT will not fund a project that was not bid correctly, so our situation is that the low bidder is thrown out. We can choose to go with Davis Taylor Construction, Inc., which is who our engineer recommends us to go with and the city's cost would be approximately \$9,100 because we get a federal grant and DOT pays for majority of the project. If we choose to reject the bids, we run the risk of missing the time frame with DOT and having to wait six months to rebid. If we go with the low bidder, we would have no funding and have to pay for the entire project ourselves. Motion to approve to approve the Airport Terminal Parking Lot Bid from Davis Taylor Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$94,640.00 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

Consider Application for a New Alcoholic Beverage License – TNM Authentic Mexican Restaurant - Beer and Wine Retail Consumption, Liquor Retail Pouring, 79 M. L. K. Jr., Avenue SW – Hunter Boyce Burges – Applicant. Motion to approve a New Alcoholic Beverage License – TNM Authentic Mexican Restaurant was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Renaud, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

CONSIDER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024. Motion to approve Financial Statements for the Month of January 2024 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

- There will be a downtown event this weekend, March 16th.
- Mayor Gainor signed several CHIP Grant Application letters concerning incomplete applications. If you know anyone who applied, let them know they should be receiving a letter soon concerning the information that is needed.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Councilman Byrden said he had been on the council going on seven years and that he used to stream the meetings on his personal phone/Facebook page. He would receive five to six thousand views because people want to know what is going on and not all individuals can get to the meetings. He said he knew that it cost \$3,000 but that is nothing compared to us being transparent to the community, we have voted on a lot of things that really should not have been voted on. The newspaper writes their version of the meeting and that is not always exactly what happens. For the ones that people voted for to be up here, the people should be able to know what they voted for and what you are doing up here and how you are representing them.
- Councilman Gurley said that he wanted to echo Councilman Byrden's sentiments. He said he heard Councilman Byrden say a lot of things had been voted on that should not have been, and that we were going to stop with that now. I did not approve the online streaming because I felt that now since I am a city councilman there were a lot of other things that could be more beneficial to the city. That could probably come back on the agenda and be passed easily, but right now he felt that knowing where we spend our money on whether it be new lawnmowers or new police cars or city trucks, which was his main concern. He asked if we were buying these new police cars and were officers not getting out on M. L. K. and serving the citizens or were we buying city trucks and the city workers not getting out and fixing the roads and things of that nature. He thought it will be a good idea to go live, great idea. Councilman Gurley then asked City Manager Brown to check on a water drainage issue at 1104 Brookwood Drive SE and livestock issues on 15th Avenue SE.
- Councilwoman Higdon said on Harlem Drive there were issues with chickens running around in people's yard and pulling laundry off clothes lines. She also added that Councilman Byrden summed it by saying that if we were not hiding anything

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then she did not feel that \$3,000 was a lot of money, since we just let \$9,000 go by with the stroke of a pen with the difference with the airport paving. She went on to say that she really did not see the benefit of it because she could not fly out of it and did not have a plane to fly into it, so there are things taking place that we could work around. When you are being transparent you should not mind who hears or sees because we have nothing to hide, we are up here to serve the citizens and be fair to them.

- Councilman Douglas said he wanted to add that he has always voted against streaming, and he did not have a problem with the streaming but with it becoming a three-ring circus. He said he had a problem with the comments that could be posted about him, the mayor, or other councilmembers. His major problem was people wanting to down one of them and an employee responding and the city possibly being sued. Councilwoman Higdon and Mayor Gainor both said comments were able to be cut off from the streaming.
- Mayor Gainor said that on 1680 M. L. K. Blvd. there were magnolia trees growing over powerlines that needed to be trimmed.
- Councilman Gurley asked City Manager Brown to bring back a policy for the live streaming and bring it back before council at the next meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, a motion was made at 6:49 pm by Councilman Douglas and seconded by Councilman Byrden to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, IV

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK