

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 08, 2024
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the city council was held on Monday, July 08, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilwoman Victoria Gaitten
Councilman Gregg Stewart
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Police Chief Robert Shore
Director of Economic Development Heidi Jeffers
Planning Director Teresa Concannon
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Finance Manager Cindy Collins
HR/Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield

Councilman McKie was not present for the meeting.

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Tim Spencer
Jaqueline Ziranda Diaz
Martin Perez
Representative from CKH CPA's & Advisors, LLC

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Gaitten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Taylor gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda adding Item h) motion to approve a resolution approving Contract ID: IGTIA2500247 Transportation Investment Act of 2010 Project Agreement by and between the Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Metter. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- a) Public Hearing, Monday, June 03, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
- b) Called Meeting, Monday, June 03, 2024, 5:45 p.m.
- c) Regular Meeting, Monday, June 10, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
- d) Called Meeting, Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Conditional Use Permit Application – 1095 W. Hiawatha St.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Conditional Use Permit to operate a salon (beauty shop) in the R-4 zoning district requested by Jaqueline Ziranda Diaz at 1095 W. Hiawatha Street including staff recommendations as follows:

1. The applicant shall meet all building permit requirements for improvements to the accessory building and begin renovations within six months after approval of the conditional use by the City Council.
2. The applicant shall obtain a City of Metter Occupational Tax Certificate prior to the start of business operations. The license shall be maintained by annual renewal.

Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Request to Close N. Rountree St.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a request made by Jessica Gonzalez on behalf of Communities in Schools of Candler County to close N. Rountree Street from S. Broad St. to Lee St. to allow for inflatables on October 19, 2024. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Gaitten wanted to know if we require porta potties for events like this. Mr. Hendrix said yes, we do for bigger events like this one.

Request to Close N. Rountree St.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a request made by Brianna Dillon on behalf of the Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce to close N. Rountree Street from S. Broad St. to N. Broad St. to allow for the Food Truck Festival on August 3, 2024. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Proposal from T-Mobile

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the pricing proposal from T-Mobile for a total annual cost of \$2,774.40 as requested by the Metter Police Department. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Chief Shore explained that this will replace the cards that are in the current mobiles for the officers. That will give them a phone for a lesser price. It will save about \$100 per month. They will be able to run the mobiles from their phones in the cars. It is a 5G network instead of 4G. They will get better service. Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – CISGA Rural Schools Innovation Consortium

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CISGA Rural Schools Innovation Consortium and the City of Metter. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve a resolution declaring certain personal property of the City as surplus and authorizing its disposal:

- 1) A 2000 Chevrolet 1500 pickup truck VIN NO. 1GCEC14T3YE375789 that is assigned to the Streets and Lanes Department. It has 124,076 miles.
- 2) A 2008 Chevrolet 2500HD pickup truck VIN NO. 1GBHC24K08E113080 that is assigned to the Wastewater Department. It has 137,954 miles.

Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. Mr. Hendrix explained that these are the two vehicles that we proposed replacing in the budget. They are worn out. We need to sell

and get rid of them. Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Audit Bids

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the bid from Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser, CPAs in the amount of \$24,900 for the financial audit and \$4,500 for the single audit for a combined total of \$29,400. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. The City recently solicited proposals from qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, with the option of auditing the City's financial statements for the two subsequent years. On June 24, 2024, the City held a bid opening at which three (3) proposals were received. All proposals were reviewed by City Manager Carter Crawford, City Clerk Angie Conner, and HR-Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield. Proposals received are as follows:

- 1) CKH CPA's & Advisors, LLC, Atlanta, GA
Financial Audit \$20,240 Single Audit \$2,200 Combined Total \$22,460
- 2) Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser, CPA's, Statesboro, GA
Financial Audit \$24,900 Single Audit \$4,500 Combined Total \$29,400
- 3) McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Company, Macon, GA
Financial Audit \$27,000 Single Audit \$7,500 Combined Total \$34,500

Councilwoman Kilcrease said that she thinks we should stick with the ones we already have. They know our system. They know our history. They know about our projects. Even though they might cost a little more they are hands on. They are readily available. We can get to them any time we need them. We will not have to teach a new firm our system.

Councilwoman Taylor said she agrees. She said she knew we have had a little hiccup since COVID. They are also the same auditor as our county partners use as well. That makes it easier when you slide across. She said she knew we had an issue or so but that is with any business. She said that she agrees with staying with them as well.

Councilwoman Gaitten agreed with Councilwoman Taylor and Councilwoman Kilcrease to stay with our present firm.

Councilwoman Kilcrease said they are easy to work with and readily available anytime we need them.

Councilwoman Taylor said that they helped us over a major transition to the Edmunds software. That was a nightmare for everybody. They went above and beyond to help us.

Councilwoman Kilcrease said that one of the other firms is international and housed out of Atlanta. You never know what you might get but you already know what you got.

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Councilwoman Taylor said it took time from everyone to submit a bid and we are thankful that they did. We may be visiting this again in three years. She said that she considered each bid, but familiarity and availability won out for her.

Councilman Stewart agreed to stick with the ones we have now.

Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Resolution Band 1 TIA Projects

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Resolution approving Contract ID: IGTIA2500247 Transportation Investment Act of 2010 Project Agreement by and between the Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Metter. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrix explained that this is Band 1 of the next TIA round. There are ten streets in this band (Preston St., Moffit St., Hickory St., Doctors St., Holly Dr., Hope St., Bragdon St., Brannen St., N. Kennedy St., and Turner St. This band will consist of resurfacing and paving with additional work done on some of these streets. There will also be some water and sewer upgrades. Once the agreement is signed and sent back, then they will issue a notice to advertise. This will be around the first of the year before we will be ready to put this out for bid. We will bid on all ten projects at one time, hopefully to get a lot better price for everything by doing that.

Councilwoman Taylor asked if all the plumbing work had already been done underneath the streets that are going to be paved. Mr. Hendrix said not all of them. That is going to be part of what is in this project. Councilwoman Taylor said so we are going to fix the plumbing before we pave. Mr. Hendrix said that is our intention.

After no further comments, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The agenda packets contained written reports provided by each department head for the mayor and council to review.

Economic Development

Mayor Boyd announced that the Downtown Development Authority meeting will be tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

Ms. Jeffers announced that Grant Anderson with Better Fresh Farms was featured in the Georgia Trend magazine as an expert in hydroponics. We have a workshop this week. We partnered with the Georgia Extension here on a cattle workshop. There is a Georgia Grown networking event on July 16th. There is an ag aware event on July 16th and a statewide flex

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program. There will be four events and a common market in 2 days. Ms. Jeffers invited the council to attend.

Police Department

The Back-to-School Bash event at the Metter Police Department will be Saturday, July 27th. There will be 550 book bags with school supplies given away. Councilwoman Taylor asked Chief Shore if he knew of anything that they need. Chief Shore said that is a question for Communities in Schools. They handle that part of it. Councilwoman Gaitten contacted them, and they are in need of one more booth for games.

Chief Shore reported that he hired a new Sergeant, and another guy is getting out of the military and coming to work on August 1st. He will be moving to Twin City. We will not have to send him to the academy. We have two more applications for the last position.

Planning Department

Mrs. Concannon reported that the consultant has sent back the revisions to the subdivision regulations. We are reviewing those. We will send the council a copy for feedback.

Councilwoman Gaitten asked the status of the townhouses. Mrs. Concannon said that we have been having meetings and will continue to meet with them. It is evolving a little bit. Councilwoman Taylor asked if the hold up is on our end or is it something on their end. Mrs. Concannon said that it is at their end.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd reported on the GMA Convention. He said that the classes were informative and excellent. He was extremely impressed with the class that talked about a healthy community. It led him to think that Metter is on the right path with our placement and future placement of exercise equipment. It is not just about a person being free from disease or sickness. It is about a healthy community like having safe sidewalks and being a safe place to play. A place to have a high quality of life. He thinks the definition of healthy community was the main thing he got out of that class.

The convention is very engaging. They have a convention floor with vendors which are accountants, architects, and all the people who provide services for the cities around the state. Also, the people like GEFA and all the others that serve the cities. It is a place to get a wealth of information, to bring back literature and make connections with people.

There is also value in sitting down to lunch with people from other cities. This is particularly important part of learning about how to be a good steward and run a place like

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the City of Metter. We have a lot to be thankful for here because the City of Metter is very well thought of by other cities in the state. Our slogan “Everything’s Better in Metter” is known nationally. We all have a lot to be proud of here.

Industrial Development

The Site Selection magazine rates the #1 states to do business in. They rate why Georgia is the #1 state to do business in. They have a ranking of counties in the country by economic development per capita. Candler County ranked sixth out of all the counties in the United States on a per capita basis. We made a list in a nationally publicized magazine for our economic development that is going on here. On a per capita basis that is a pretty good list to be on. Metter and Candler County has a lot going on.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk