

CITY OF METTER
Called Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2025
9:30 A.M.

A called meeting was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilwoman/Mayor Elect Rashida Taylor
Councilman Gregg Stewart
Councilwoman Victoria Gaitten
Councilman James D. McKie
City Manager Scott Wood
City Clerk Angie Conner
City Attorney Brent Carter
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Tara Jeffers – Incoming Councilmember

GUESTS ATTENDING

There were no guests present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Gaitten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

City Manager Scott Wood gave the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

UPDATES

Homestead Exemption

City Attorney Brent Carter asked to give the council some updates before entering closed session.

Mr. Carter said that he had been in contact with Senator Billy Hickman regarding the homestead exemption. Mr. Hickman said that he needs more specificity regarding the direction for the homestead exemption. He needs to know exactly what we want. Councilwoman Gaitten said that we wanted the same thing as the county has in place.

Mr. Carter said that there were some considerations about not doing it, so he just needs to know what the council wants. Councilwoman Gaitten said that she is still in favor of it. Councilwoman Taylor said that she thought it was just for a certain population of people. Mr. Carter said it was a greater amount for that population. Mr. Carter said it was \$4,000 for sixty-five and older. Everybody would be getting \$2,000 homestead exemption. Mr. Carter said this will further take money off the tax base. Councilwoman Gaitten said that when she and the Tax Assessor did the math it was like \$15,000 that we would lose. That is not much when considering giving people a break. The council agreed to allow Mr. Carter to follow up with Senator Hickman.

Fire Station Project

Mr. Wood asked Fire Chief Douglas to be here this morning to talk about the fire station project. Mr. Wood said that Chief Douglas is getting his heels nipped at by ISO because of our temporary space. The equipment is not protected from the elements. Firefighters would like to be in a little better quarters. We are going to do everything we can to keep the fire project on track. Mr. Wood said that he and Mr. Carter have been working with Trey Monroe who is the bond underwriter. We have also had discussions with John Ponnell who is the underwriting attorney. They have produced a plan that would enable us to go ahead and break ground on the project prior to getting the bond issuance. We are going to have a resolution on the agenda for Monday evening unless directed otherwise that would be the process by which we could achieve that and go ahead and get started on the construction. Our interest and ambition are to not keep kicking the can down the road.

One of the candidates mentioned fire department grants and that raised our antennas. Mr. Wood called that person and asked him what he was talking about because we are not familiar with that. He mentioned that his city had been able to get \$316,000 congressional money earmark through Senator Ossoff. As we talked through that it sounded initially like a gift from Heaven. It is not that simple. It had to go first to the president for his signature. Then to FEMA and then to EPA. This would take a long time. Chief Douglas said that it was for the AFG grant. That grant was only to modify an existing station. Chief Douglas said that the earmark once they go through FEMA then they go to USDA and then through GOV grants for them to approve it. It would take a long time.

PURPOSE

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to go into closed session for personnel, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1) at 9:43 a.m. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Chief Douglas exited the room.

After closed session was complete, Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to go back into open session at 11:00 a.m. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further comments, Councilwoman Gaitten made a motion at 11:01 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. Councilman McKie seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk