

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of City Council was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Attending the Meeting were the Following Officials

Mayor Rashida Taylor
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilmember James McKie
Councilwoman Victoria Gaitten
Councilman Gregory Thomas
Councilwoman Tara Jeffers entered the meeting at 5:41 p.m.
City Clerk Angie Conner
Police Chief McKinley Lewis
Lieutenant Juwan Taylor, Metter Fire Department
Public Works Director James McCray

GUESTS

George Ward
Trey Monroe
Dr. & Mrs. Vendie Hooks
Anne Childs
Jan Trapnell
Jana Sasser
Stephen Swinson
Rev. Victor Carson

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Rashida Taylor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Gregory Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council reviewed the agenda for the February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda with the following amendment: adding a motion to approve the City of Metter, Georgia Rules & Procedures for city council meetings as Item (a) and moving the other items down a letter. Councilman McKie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 12, 2026, as presented. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Vendie Hooks and Ms. Jan Trapnell appeared before Mayor and Council to present information regarding the Metter Tree Board's proposed Adopt-A-Block Program. The presentation highlighted Metter's history as a planned community with tree-lined streets and emphasized community involvement in beautification efforts. The proposed program would allow local businesses, civic groups, and citizens to adopt designated areas for landscaping and upkeep. Adopter responsibilities would include planting, routine maintenance, litter control, and ongoing care, while the City would assist with coordination, signage, watering support as feasible, and program oversight. Council thanked Dr. Hooks and Ms. Trapnell for the presentation and agreed to review the proposal for future consideration.

GUEST COMMENTS

Mr. George Ward addressed Mayor and Council regarding concerns related to feral cats within his neighborhood. He discussed issues including overpopulation, feeding of stray animals on public property, property damage, sanitation concerns, and potential health risks. Mr. Ward requested that the City review existing ordinances and consider additional measures to address animal control enforcement and nuisance complaints. Mayor and Council acknowledged his concerns and advised that the matter would be reviewed with the appropriate department.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor Taylor presented proposed Rules and Procedures designed to provide structure and consistency during Council meetings. Discussion included clearly defined public comment time limits of three minutes per speaker, a total fifteen-minute public comment period, sign-in procedures for residents and non-residents, and standards of decorum to ensure orderly conduct. Clarification was provided that non-residents must request placement on the agenda in advance, while residents may sign in prior to the meeting. After discussion and opportunity for questions, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the Rules and Procedures as presented. Councilman McKie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FIRE STATION BOND RESOLUTION

Council reviewed a resolution ratifying approval of a bond issued through the Candler County Public Building Authority to finance acquisition, construction, and equipping of the new fire station complex. Discussion included funding structure, repayment terms, coordination with the Authority, and long-term capital planning. City officials confirmed the resolution authorized the Mayor to execute necessary documents associated with the bond issuance. Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the resolution of Mayor and Council of the City of Metter, Georgia, ratifying the approval of the Bond Resolution adopted by the Candler County Public Building Authority authorizing the issuance of its Revenue Bond for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and equipping a new fire station complex for the City; to authorize the Mayor to transfer property to the authority and to execute the lease; to authorize the Mayor and other officials of the city to take such further actions as are necessary to provide for the issuance and delivery of the Series 2026 bond; and for other purposes. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

Council considered the second reading of an ordinance amendment allowing the sale of mixed drinks for off-premises consumption in compliance with state law. It was noted that approval at second reading would finalize adoption of the amendment. Council members discussed regulatory oversight and compliance requirements for establishments. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the ordinance amending the City of Metter's Alcohol Ordinance adding a new section, Article XI: 5.08.930 Sale of Mixed Drinks for Off-Premises Consumption." Councilman McKie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

MEMORY LANE PARK – WATER LINE REQUEST

Council reviewed a request to install a water line and meter at Memory Lane Park at an estimated cost of \$1,700. Discussion focused on funding responsibility, long-term maintenance obligations, and the importance of developing a written Memorandum of Understanding outlining duties between the City and project organizers. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to table the request pending development of a formal agreement. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

STREET & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS BID APPROVAL

Council reviewed bids submitted for resurfacing and water and sewer improvements on Pine Street, Daniel Street, and High Street. Engineering representatives recommended approval of the bid from Ellis Wood Contracting in the amount of \$949,574. Funding sources include Local Road Activities (LRA), Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG), SPLOST funds, and Renewal and Replacement funds. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the bid from Ellis Wood Contracting in the amount of \$949,574 for some resurfacing, water, and sewer improvements on Pine Street for the 2025 LRA and resurfacing, water and sewer improvements on Daniel and High Street for the 2026 LMIG as recommended by EMC Engineering. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

PURCHASE OF 2009 FIRE TRUCK

Council considered the purchase of a 2009 fire truck for \$275,000, with costs shared equally between the City of Metter and Candler County. Discussion included fleet replacement planning, maintenance history of the apparatus, and continued use of existing equipment as reserve apparatus. Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2009 fire truck in the amount of \$275,000 with the city paying half the cost (\$137,500 from SPLOST account) and Candler County Commission paying the other half (\$137,000). Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CHANGE OF HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS

City Manager Scott Wood informed council that Public Works has requested to change their hours of operation to a 4 - 10-hour work week. Mr. Wood recommended making the change on a trial basis for 90 to 120 days. Council agreed with Mr. Wood's recommendation.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilwoman Gaitten provided updates regarding social media security, hotel construction near Metter Ford, hurricane recovery assistance forms, and her potential future relocation outside city limits that could require resignation under the City Charter.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chief Lewis provided updates regarding animal control operations, additional feral cat cages, tranquilizer equipment consideration, nuisance enforcement, and traffic enforcement efforts.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Wood reported on the following:

- Enjoyment of working with newly elected officials.
- Submission to the State of an updated inventory of our water and sewer customers who have galvanized or lead service pipes.
- Met with Planning Commission regarding the draft provisions of the new Comprehensive Zoning Plan.
- No news from the developers of any of the housing projects about which the City has been approached.
- No news on future status of the hotel project, although we have no reason to think it is not still alive.
- Developing a better process for how and when DRIs are initiated, and in understanding the scope and dimensions of project inquiries and proposals as early as possible.
- Met with representative of Georgia Southern University to discuss their continued utilization of the Georgia Grown facility.
- Held groundbreaking last month on the new fire station and gave Project Manager John Lavender formal notice to proceed.
- Will provide bond financing summary and schedule next Monday.
- Chief McKinley Lewis has compiled a comprehensive report of the activities of his department during 2025.
- Held a nice retirement reception for former Mayor Boyd last month.
- 2.5% COLA has been implemented.
- Engineers working on Industrial Park dam.
- Thanked council for agreeing to purchase the new fire truck.
- Thanked council for giving the authority to go ahead of the bond for the new fire station.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taylor reported on the following:

- GMA Cities United Conference was cancelled due to inclement weather. The GMA Convention will be held in June.
- Planning Director Teresa Concannon attended the IDA and Regional Commission meeting in Mayor Taylor's absence.
- Working with committee on ordinances. Hoping to get new ordinances passed soon.
- Met with Joey Burke and he has a new funder and hopefully we will see the fruits of his labor soon.
- Rode along with the Chief on a potential fire issue.
- Signed a new agreement with the GBI for a new officer that we share.
- Hosting a mayor's roundtable in Metter,
- Regional meeting for Region 9 to be held in Metter. Mayor Taylor is president of District 9.
- Started Mayor's reading club. Our literacy rates in Metter and Candler County are really low. Mayor Taylor will work to get our literacy rates up. It is especially important that we improve these literacy rates. There is a community meeting on February 20th which encompasses the city, county, clergy, and anybody that is interested in helping youth to improve the literacy rates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or real estate matters as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Council entered Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to go back into open session. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Council returned to open session at 7:18 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Tremblay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

City Clerk Angie Conner