

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the city council was held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilman Gregg Stewart
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilman Brandon Sikes
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman James McKie
City Manager Carter Crawford
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Police Chief Robert Shore
Director of Economic Development Heidi Jeffers
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Planning Director Teresa Concannon
Jerri Goodman – Metter Advertiser

GUESTS

Victoria Gaitten

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Sikes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilman Sikes gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- a) Regular Meeting, Monday, July 10, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix gave a presentation on the concept plan for the walking trail grant. This is a \$500,000.00 grant. The first round of applications is due in September. The grant awards will be in May or June 2024. The local match is 25% which is \$125,000.00 for a total of \$625,000.00. This project will include resurfacing, improving picnic areas, replacing the wooden bridge, road paving, bathrooms and shelter, tables, etc. Hopefully, our application will get past the first round.

Mayor Boyd introduced three new employees, Planning Director, Teresa Concannon with 20+ years' experience; Madison Jarvis, working with Georgia Grown at the GGIC building; and Alysia Dunn, intern working with Planning Director.

Mayor Boyd commented on the following future projects:

Next 1 to 5 years

- 500,000-gallon water tank
- Water and Sewer line extensions
- GGIC extension
- Downtown Park Grant

Next 5 to 10 years

- Wastewater Treatment Facility
- City Hall Expansion
- Water and sewer line extensions

Mayor Boyd said that we are beginning to have a lot of things going on in our community. We need to be prepared for the future. City Manager Carter Crawford is putting together a GMA facilitated planning retreat in February 2024. At this retreat we will need to discuss these issues.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Public Hearing Date

Councilman McKie made a motion to set a Public Hearing date for September 11, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. for a variance request submitted by Dean Stone of IHS Pharmacy. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

EMC Engineering Services

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the sole bid from EMC Engineering Services of Statesboro, GA in the amount not to exceed 9% of construction cost for the American Rescue Plan Act Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities (INODIC) Grant received for the downtown park revitalization project as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Freedman Engineering Group, Inc.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the bid from Freedman Engineering Group, LLC in the amount of \$22,950.00 for the administration of the American Rescue Plan Act Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities (INODIC) Grant received for the downtown park revitalization project as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

2024 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Intergovernmental Agreement

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Candler County, City of Metter, and Town of Pulaski for the use and distribution of proceeds from the 2024 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for capital outlay projects. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Reappointing Library Board Member

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Resolution reappointing Ms. Miranda Thigpen to the Candler County Library Board for a term of three (3) years, beginning July 1, 2023, and expiring on June 30, 2026. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Appointing Library Board Member

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve a Resolution appointing Mr. Ted Lewis to the Candler County Library Board for a term of three (3) years, beginning July 1, 2023, and expiring on June 30, 2026. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Special Event Alcohol Permit Application

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Special Event Alcohol Permit Application submitted by Tommy Hunt, Tom's Pawn Central, 715 S. Lewis Street for a jewelry show to be held on September 21, 2023. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Revisions to Depot Facility Rental Policy and Procedures

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the City of Metter Depot Facility Rental Policy and Procedures as presented. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Taylor asked staff to order a rolling cart to put the chairs on at the depot.

Resolution Increasing Pay for Mayor and Council

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Metter, Georgia to adjust the annual salary of the Mayor and Council Persons of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Metter, Georgia with an effective date of January 1, 2024, as follows:

Salary for Mayor:

Effective January 1, 2024 - \$10,350.00

Salary for Mayor Pro Tem

Effective January 1, 2024 - \$4,950.00

Salary for other Council Members

Effective January 1, 2024 - \$4,500.00

Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor and one opposed. Councilwoman Kilcrease, Councilwoman Taylor, Councilman Sikes, and Councilman Stewart voted in favor of the motion and Councilman McKie cast the opposing vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Crawford did not have a report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd reported on the following:

1. GMA Small Cities Conference to be held later this week.
2. The second annual Food Truck Festival was packed out.
3. Book bag event was rained out but still was successful. This event was sponsored by Communities in Schools and the Metter Police Department. They gave out over 400 book bags.
4. Literacy Event to be held in Statesboro. Councilwoman Taylor, Mayor Boyd and School Superintendent Bubba Longgear attended. We are looking at putting out a proclamation.
5. Councilwoman Taylor and Planning Director Teresa Concannon will be attending the GICH Conference.
6. Chief Shore is working with the career academy at the school.
7. Had a city picnic at the new splash pad.
8. Opened new splash pad to the public.
9. Qualifying will be held next week.
10. Recognized the public works employees for their high level of service maintaining the downtown park.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilman McKie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk