

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the city council was held on Monday, April 14, 2025, 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
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilman Gregg Stewart
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Interim Police Chief McKinley Lewis
HR Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield

Councilman James McKie was not present.

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Tim Spenser
LaTonya Kennedy
LaNonna Zennedlys
Malaysia Kennedy
Colby Tootle
Carson Fornter
Nelli Fortner
Officer Brian Brown, Metter Police Department
Detective Chris Story, Metter Police Department
Shelly Clifton
David Clifton
Officer Brian Mosley, Metter Police Department
Lieutenant Tim Platt, Metter Police Department

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 Kilcrease gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda, changing Item H to a discussion instead of a motion. 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, March 10, 2025, 5:15 p.m.
- b) Regular Meeting, Monday, March 10, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Arlene Gibson

Ms. Gibson was not present at the meeting.

Carson Fortner

Mr. Carson gave a presentation regarding the requirement of Candler County Home Exemption for eligibility to obtain a short-term rental permit. He explained to the council that he owned property in Metter and would like to use it for a short-term rental but according to the ordinance you have to have a homestead exemption in Candler County. He said that he lives in the Register, a neighboring town. He went on to explain his roots in the City of Metter. He asked the council to consider changing the ordinance to allow him to have a short-term rental without having homestead exemption in Candler County.

Mayor Boyd said that the council would take this request under advisement.

Guest Comments

There were no comments from the guests.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an ordinance to repeal Appendix B, Subdivisions of the City of Metter Municipal Code, and to replace it with Appendix B. Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. This is the second reading. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Public Hearing

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to set a public hearing, May 12, 2025, 5:15 p.m. for public comment on a request from Anthony and Tamara Wells for annexation and zoning of property to HOC Highway Oriented Commercial, property located on Fortner Road between Bevricks and the motel. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Application for Special Event Alcohol Permit

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an application for a Special Event Alcohol Permit submitted by Timothy Coleman, Burlap & Lace Market & Coffee Bar located at 10 N. Lewis Street. The event will be held on May 8, 2025, for the purpose of holding a Mahjong class. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution – Georgia Cities Week

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a resolution recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 20 – 26, 2025. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

2025 LAR Funds

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve applying to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the 2025 LAR Funds (LMIG additional funding) in the amount of \$96,393.42 for the purpose of resurfacing, centerline striping, edge striping thermoplastic cross walks and stop bars on East Pine St. from S. Kennedy St. to S. Register St. (.32 miles). Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Traffic Detour During Another Bloomin Festival

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve detouring traffic onto Lillian Street from 121 N. (N. Lewis St.) to Cedar St. in order to close N. Lewis St. from Lillian St. to S. E. Broad St. (SR 46) on Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the

“Another Bloomin Festival”. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

2025 LMIG Project Bid Approval

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the bid from Benchmark Construction of GA in the amount of \$167,257.85 for the 2025 LMIG Project which includes resurfacing, striping, and drainage improvements on S. Rountree St. from Lytell St. to Palm St. and Richard St. from S. Leroy St. to S. Rountree St. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Discussion – Letter from Sheriff John Miles Regarding Jail and Dispatch Agreements

Councilwoman Taylor said that she respects the great job that the Sheriff is doing. She did not support turning the Metter Police Department over to Sheriff Miles. She said that there is only one in Georgia which is Wilkes County that operates this way. There are 534 other cities not doing it. There are places in other states that operate like that, but they are not as agriculturally based like Metter. Other communities and constitutions are different. We are not like Wilkes.

Councilwoman Gaitten said that she wanted this out in the public since it has not been publicly discussed. She said that she would like to see a price from Sheriff Miles.

Councilwoman Kilcrease stated that we need to keep our police department. Would this stay or change with a new Sheriff? Sheriff Miles needs to come explain E911 fees. She said that he is more on the political realm because he is elected. The citizens of Metter do not need to pay 2 or 3 times for the same service.

Councilman Stewart said that he would like to follow up with Wilkes.

Councilwoman Taylor said that she checked with Savannah, and they had done this but stopped.

Councilwoman Kilcrease said that this is not personal with the Sheriff but about the people of Metter and Candler County. We need to see figures from the Sheriff.

Councilman Stewart agreed that council needs to see some figures from Sheriff Miles.

Mayor Boyd said the Sheriff Miles has offered no details or broken down anything. The council years ago spent money to repurpose the old school for the police department and we have a nice facility. The county had to delete part of the offices for the new jail. Would the city have to pay for these? What if there is an incident with law enforcement and it causes the law enforcement insurance to go up will the cost be added to the city? Mayor Boyd asked if the city would be double taxed since we are already paying 40 percent of the cost with our taxes. We had Harold Holtz, UGA, GMA and a training collaborator many years ago to make a proposal on consolidating the city and county governments. The

number one thing was not to consolidate policing. In 1993, the citizens of the city voted to approve the consolidation of governments, but the county citizens voted against it, so it failed.

Councilwoman Gaitten said that Mayor Boyd drafted a letter to the Sheriff stating that the council was not in support of turning the Metter Police Department over to him. She asked if the letter had been sent. Mayor Boyd said that it has not been sent. He wanted to wait to see if the council agreed with the letter. There was a unanimous consensus to send the letter as written. Councilwoman Gaitten said that it will be an expensive task on both of us if we cannot come up with an agreement.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilwoman Taylor stated that the Interim Chief of Police is doing a good job and the Metter Police Department is under good sound leadership. She reported that Washington Wilkes lost a member of council.

Councilwoman Gaitten gave an update on the events scheduled for the Another Bloomin Festival. She also reminded council of the annual Chamber of Commerce meeting at the innovation center.

Councilwoman Kilcrease reported that Vidalia also lost a member of their council. She thanked the Metter Police Department for their hard work and dedication.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The departmental reports were included in the agenda packet for the council's review.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report. Interim City Manager Scott Wood was not present.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd reported on the following:

- Expressed condolences to McKinley Lewis's family for the loss of Mrs. Joyce Woods.
- Announced ribbon cutting and prayer in the park
- Another Bloomin Festival
- Easter Sunday
- Thanked staff for putting together a schedule of activities for Georgia Cities Week.

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ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Stewart seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk