

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
5:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Rashida Taylor
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilwoman Victoria Gaitten
Councilwoman Tara Tremblay
Councilman Gregory Thomas
Councilman James D. McKie
City Manager Scott Wood
City Clerk Angie Conner
Police Chief McKinley Lewis
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Planning Director Teresa Concannon
H/R Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield
Public Works Director James McCray
Jerri Goodman, Metter Advertiser

GUESTS

Dennis Allen – Family Connections/The Bridge
Heather Thigpen – Family Connections/The Bridge
Lisa Rigdon - Family Connections/The Bridge
Anne Childes
Brian Tootle
Pastor Tom Osborne
George Ward

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

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

INVOCATION

Councilman Thomas delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman McKie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the agenda adding Item (F) Job Description and Timeline for hiring a City Manager. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026, Regular Meeting, April 20, 2026, Called Meeting and the April 27, 2026, Called Meeting. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Lisa Rigdon representing Family Connections/The Bridge gave a presentation about the need to relocate to the City's Lillian Street Building. She said that they are currently experiencing a growing need for additional space to effectively serve the families and children of Candler County. After careful consideration, we believe relocating to the Lillian Street location would greatly improve our ability to reach and support those in need throughout our community.

This location offers increased accessibility, especially for families facing transportation challenges, while placing us in a more central area to expand outreach efforts and community partnerships. With additional space and improved access, we would be better equipped to provide essential programs and wraparound services that support family stability, early childhood development, and overall community well-being.

At the Bridge Resource Center, our mission is to provide wraparound services that ensure each client receives the support needed to meet their unique situation and work toward self-sufficiency. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and provide a variety of supportive services to individuals and families across Candler County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

SECOND READING - ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

A second reading of the amended zoning ordinance was presented. After hearing no comments from city council or citizens, Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve an ordinance to repeal Appendix A. Zoning Ordinance of the City of Metter Municipal Code and to replace it with Appendix A. Zoning Ordinance. Councilman McKie made a motion

to approve the motion as presented. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The proposed new ordinance expands upon the existing zoning ordinance by adding definitions, special uses, and expanding the list of conditional and permitted uses. In addition, the section on Planned Development has been revised and expanded to provide guidance for staff and developers a new chapter on Design Standards and Guidelines has been added to provide guidance for development.

Based on feedback from public workshops, the sections on Overlay Districts and Administrative Variances have been removed.

CITY PARK APPLICATION – RICARDO FANN

Mr. Ricardo Fann submitted an application to rent Lee Street Park for a kids event to give away clothes, shoes, bottles and more. He was also asking to be allowed to charge vendors a fee to support the cost of the event. Staff included a copy of a flyer advertising the event that said bring your own bottle (BYOB). Alcohol is not allowed in city parks. Chief Lewis indicated that Mr. Fann had also applied for a permit to exceed the sound limits. Chief Lewis said that he denied the application because the event is on Sunday and in a residential neighborhood. Also, there is a church in the vicinity. Mr. Fann was not present at the meeting. After reviewing the application and the flyer advertising the event, Mayor Taylor called for a motion. Councilwoman Gaitten made a motion to deny a request from Ricardo Fann to charge vendors a fee to set up on city property during an event for kids at the Lee Street Park. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

MAIN MARKER FOR MEMORY LANE PARK

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the first main marker for Memory Lane Park submitted by Wendell Summerlin. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR 2026 LRA PROGRAM

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the recommendation from Public Works Director James McCray to submit the following projects in the amount of \$96,054.73 for the 2026 LRA Program:

1. Pine Street from South Leroy Street to South Terrell Street – Resurface 24' width roadway, adding centerline and edge line striping, crosswalk and stop bars. Estimated cost \$19,464.00.
2. Pine Street from South Terrell Street to Terminus – Construct 24' width dirt roadway, adding centerline and edge line striping. Estimated cost \$38,100.00.
3. Jeanette Street/South Williams Street from South College Street to West Hiawatha Street – Resurface 24' width roadway, adding centerline and edge line striping, and three stoop bars. Estimated cost \$42,360.00

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

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FAMILY CONNECTION / THE BRIDGE

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a tentative lease agreement with Family Connection / The Bridge to be drafted by the City Attorney for property located at 803 ½ E. Lillian Street which includes two rooms (Suite B and Suite D) totaling 1556.74 square feet and to include \$100 per month for electricity and \$50 per month for water usage. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR CITY MANAGER POSITION

After discussion about whether the City Manager job description should require a specific number of years of experience or allow for progressive government experience, Councilman McKie made a motion to approve revising the job description to allow progressive government experience in place of an exact number of years. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

TIMELINE FOR CITY MANAGR SEARCH

After discussing the length of time to run the ad for the City Manager position, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to actively put the City Manager job position running May 20th through July 15th in our local newspaper and all social media platforms and all other sites like GMA. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Council asked staff to have all the applications ready to distribute to them by July 20th. They also agreed to vet the candidates themselves instead of spending money to hire someone else to do it or at least only the last 2 to 3 candidates.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilman McKie asked if there had been any movement on an on an ordinance addressing feral cats. Mayor Taylor said that staff will follow up on this.

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Councilwoman Gaitten gave kudos to the city for the repairs to the Industrial Park Lake dam and for placing the new historical signs on Lewis, Rountree and Kennedy Streets.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports were provided to council members in the meeting binder and distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

Public Works

Public Works Director James McCray said unfortunately he did not have any updates as far as the pavers starting back on Hope and Holly Streets. They did start back on Turner Street. It is ninety percent completed. The striping has not been done. They have done some prep work on N. Kennedy Street. There is a lack of communication on Sikes's part. Mr. McCray said that he contacted the engineer and had not heard back from him. The last time we talked with engineer he could not get in contact with Sikes. We are taking steps to try to rectify the situation. Unfortunately, the paving project is past due. They started November 10th and the project has gone past the time it should have.

Councilwoman Tremblay had questions regarding the timeline for something to be done with the current paving situation with Sikes Bros. Mr. Wood explained that the first thing to do is what we have already done today and that is evoke the liquidated damages provision. We notified them by certified mail with the return receipt required. Then gave them a few days or a week to see how they respond to that. If we continue to get inadequate response from them then we call for their performance bond. The city attorney has concurred with the approach of the liquidated damages letter. Mayor Taylor responded that we would trust our attorney that he will see us through this.

Police

Chief Lewis said that he has been researching Enterprise as a potential option for the way we purchase our vehicles. It looks like this will be a cost savings relationship to enter into. We will provide more info in the upcoming year during the budget process.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Scott Wood informed everyone that the Fire Station construction is coming along. The concrete slabs have been poured. The steel and blocks are on site.

The city has two job openings; one is for an administrative assistant and the other is for a Georgia Grown Resource Center Coordinator.

He reminded council of the budget workshop scheduled for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. We will be presenting a balanced budget with no tax increase.

He reported that Planning Director Teresa Concannon is now stationed at the GGRC facility. She has been extremely helpful. One of the things we have in the budget for a code enforcement officer and building inspector. Hopefully, she will be involved in coordinating and administering some of that. He commended her for being willing to take on a little more expansive managerial role in the city. We still need to refine a whole lot of that. She has had a great attitude about this. We want to develop a one-stop shop down there. This will encompass all those features of community development.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taylor reported the following:

1. Georgia Cities Week
2. Georgia Grown Resource Center vacant position.
3. Brantley County catastrophic fires
4. Community prayer in the park
5. Apprehension of criminals
6. Public Works – 10 hour days – Monday - Thursday
7. Repairs to the pond dam at the Industrial Park
8. Food Drive
9. Two job postings
10. Tuesday of next week final day to vote in this election cycle
11. Town Hall Meeting at Tremount Temple Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 19th, 7:00 p.m.
12. New software system for payroll
13. CivicPlus website that will do social media.
14. Social Media archiving.
15. Agenda and minute software

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk