

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the city council was held on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilwoman Victoria Gaitten
Councilman James McKie
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Police Chief Robert Shore
Director of Economic Development Heidi Jeffers
Planning Director Teresa Concannon
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
HR/Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield

Councilman Stewart and Councilwoman Kilcrease were not present for the meeting.

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Jessica Gonzalez - Executive Director Communities in Schools
Katie Doyle – Communities in Schools
Freddie Broome – Georgia Municipal Association
Brianna Dillon – Executive Director Chamber of Commerce
Marie Motes – Owner Mama E's

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 Taylor gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda, switching Item E to Item A and Item A to Item E. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- a) Public Hearing, Monday, July 08, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
- b) Regular Meeting, Monday, July 08, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Communities in Schools

Jessica Gonzalez and Katie Doyle with Communities in Schools were present at the meeting to express their appreciation to the council for their annual allocation for Fiscal Year 2025.

Georgia Municipal Association

Freddie Broome with the Georgia Municipal Association was present at the meeting to present a Certificate of Completion to Councilwoman Rashida Taylor for completing the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Program sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Lease Agreement between City of Metter and Marie Motes D/B/E Mama E's Home Bakery

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve a Lease Agreement between the City of Metter and Marie Motes D/B/A Mama E's Home Bakery for use of property located at 803 ½ East Lillian Street. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Councilwoman Gaitten expressed her concerns about the electricity bill part of the agreement. She said that she would like to change the agreement to reevaluate the electricity bill annually instead of every two (2) years. Ms. Motes agreed to that change. After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Motes thanked the mayor, council, and staff for helping small businesses in the community.

Bid Approval – Metter Ford

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the sole bid for the Water/Sewer vehicle from Metter Ford in the amount of \$60,152.32 as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. This vehicle is budgeted in the Wastewater Department and will be a GMA lease. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrix explained that on August 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. one bid was received for the Water/Sewer Department vehicle and no bids for the Sanitation Department vehicle. The bid received was from Metter Ford at a cost of \$60,152.32. He recommended going ahead and purchase the vehicle from Metter Ford. The estimated delivery time is three (3) months. This vehicle was budgeted in the Wastewater Department and will be a GMA lease. We will advertise again for the purchase of the Sanitation Department vehicle.

After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Temporary Closure of North Leroy Street from S.E. Broad Street to B&M Pools

Councilman McKie made a motion to authorize the closure of North Leroy Street from S.E. Broad Street/Hwy 46 to B&M Pools from September 9, 2024, until October 18, 2024, during the construction of the East Park and Depot Projects. This will help expedite the completion of the project. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrix explained that he is requesting the closure of North Leroy Street from S. E. Broad St./ Hwy 46 to B&M Pools from September 9, 2024, until October 18, 2024, during the construction of the East Park and Depot Projects. We will be working on drainage in these areas. The closure of the street will help expedite the completion of this project. We only keep the street closed as long as necessary. This will not affect B&M Pools or other businesses. Once the drainage part of the projects is complete, we will reopen the street. Anyone renting the Depot during this time will have to park in the grass area behind the Depot.

After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Request for Public Hearing

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to set a public hearing for Monday, September 9, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. to hear public comments on a request for a zoning amendment submitted by Haden Family Properties to amend the City of Metter's Zoning Ordinance Article VI to allow as a Permissible Use, Day Care Groups and Day Care Centers in the PEH (Public,

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Health, and Education) Districts. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Selection of Construction Manager for New Fire Station Project

Councilman McKie made a motion to select Lavender & Associates as the Construction Manager to oversee the new fire station project as recommended by Fire Chief Jason Douglas. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd called for discussion.

Fire Chief Jason Douglas explained that the city recently solicited proposals from qualified firms for the Construction Manager position for the new fire station project. On July 16, 2024, the City held a bid opening of which two (2) proposals were received. Mayor Boyd, Fire Chief Douglas, Lieutenant Juan Taylor, City Clerk Angie Conner, and HR/Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield reviewed all proposals. Proposals received were as follows:

1. Lavender & Associates, Inc., 300 Pulaski Hwy., PO Box 1654, Statesboro, GA 30459
2. Public-Private Partnership Project Management, Inc. (4-PM), 205 Corporate Center Dr. Ste B, Stockbridge, GA 30281

After interviewing and reviewing both companies we would like to make the recommendation of Lavender & Associates for the following reasons:

1. They have completed the construction of many new fire stations.
2. They project to use 60 to 70 percent of local subcontractors.
3. They will have a jobsite superintendent on the site daily.
4. They are working on other projects in the vicinity.

After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Free Adoptions at Animal Shelter

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve free adoptions at the Metter Animal Shelter for the months of August and September 2024. Councilwoman Gaitten seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

November 2024 Regular Council Meeting Rescheduled

Councilman McKie made a motion to reschedule the November 2024 regular meeting to Tuesday, November 12, 2024, due to the City of Metter being closed for the observance of Veterans Day on the regularly scheduled date. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

Police Department

Chief Shore added that the police department added one officer and lost another.

Fire Department

Chief Douglas reported minor damage to infrastructure in the city during Hurricane Debby.

Public Works Department

Mr. Hendrix announced that construction has begun on the middle park downtown.

Chamber of Commerce

Brianna Dillon, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, informed the mayor and council that the Business After Hours Meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, August 15, 2024, at the Historical Society Building from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The meeting was rescheduled due to the storm.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd thanked everyone for the jobs and hours put in during Hurricane Debby.

Councilwoman Taylor reported that the Gould's experienced flooding on their property. This is the second time they have been flooded.

Mayor Boyd reminded everyone of the ribbon cutting tomorrow for DAS.

Mayor Boyd asked the council to think of ways they would like to see the rest of the ARPA money spent. We will need to designate between \$400,000.00 and \$700,000.00 before the end of the year. Mayor Boyd said he would like to see this money multiply by using it in conjunction with grants, but the time limit is shrinking. It can be used as a match to a grant. We will need contracts before the end of the year.

Councilman McKie asked the department heads to put together a list of things they would like to see the money designated for.

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ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk