

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Metter Police Department located at 805 E. Lillian St.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman Brandon Sikes
Councilman James D. McKie
Councilman Paul MacGregor
City Manager Carter Crawford
Police Chief Robert Shore
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
City Clerk Angie Conner

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Gregg Stewart – In-coming Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman McKie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Kilcrease gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the following minutes:

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a) Regular Meeting, Monday, September 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix gave a presentation regarding the 2021 TIA Sidewalk Project on South Lewis Street. He explained to council that this is one of the TIA projects that was developed 10 years ago. We are getting close to being finished with the TIA projects. We should be done by next March. The projects left are Neil Street paving, Haymans Street and Lillian Street, which we will start construction in mid-November.

Originally this project was to connect sidewalks on South Lewis Street from Lytell all the way to Hiawatha Street with sidewalks on both side and curb, and gutter on both sides. This was put as a Band 3 in the TIA project list which means that it is one of the last ones we are doing. The budget that we had to work with and with an inflation value is \$252,454. When we ran the numbers a couple of months ago on the original plan, it was almost \$800,000. The big expense was putting curbing on both sides of the road and adding that GDOT was going to have us resurface this road, which funds are not available. So, we come up with an option to present to council for input and thoughts. This option, we felt to get the best bang for our buck, is to put the sidewalk on one side starting at Hiawatha Street all the way to Lytell Street. All the sidewalk area is in the right of way. The cost estimate is \$223,353. In the first section we are piping the ditch from Lytell to Stripling. Part of the reason is there is property there that will soon be developed. The area from Stripling down to Hiawatha Street will remain an open ditch and the sidewalk will be as close to the back slop of the ditch that we can put it, so the sidewalk won't be to close to the ditch and cause erosion to the sidewalk. That will at least get the sidewalk to join from Hiawatha all the way out to Lytell. There is a lot of people that walk to that area. The TIA project that we are in now, basically, we must have all our money spent or committed by March 1, 2022.

The other option, which is not recommended, is to give the money back to the state. The bad part is if you give the money back, then it goes into a pot and everybody's overage is redistributed and if we give up \$252,000, we might get \$30,000 back.

Councilman McKie asked if there is anywhere, we could put a crosswalk on S. Lewis Street. The problem is we have people crossing South Lewis and there is nowhere legally for them to do that. Mr. Hendrix said he would have to make that request to GDOT since it is a state route. He said he would put that into motion.

Councilwoman Taylor asked which property is in the process of being developed. Mr. Hendrix said it is Rob Bowen's property. She asked if he would have to do a turning lane. Mr. Hendrix said that would be left up to GDOT since that is a state route. Mr. Hendrix said his recommendation to Mr. Bowen is he would be better off to put his driveway coming off the side street, if not he might wind up having to put a turning lane

which is about a \$35,000 cost. Mr. Hendrix said he hasn't seen any plans, drawings, or designs.

Mayor Boyd asked why the sidewalk is following the highway along that piece of property and not the property line like it is on the rest of the strip. Mr. Hendrix said we can do that but what we did is filled in that ditch and piped that ditch. When we originally looked at it, it was thought to do all the ditches but because of cost we could not. But we can go back and not do this. It would still have to come over because of the crosswalk. Mayor said he is still hoping at some point the GDOT will come in and 3 lane and curb that section of road. If they do, we don't want to have to tear up the sidewalk. Mr. Hendrix said that it can definitely be shifted back. That's not a problem. Even if we pipe the ditch, we can still shift that sidewalk back. One thing we will have to look at is how close it is to the property line, that could be why we looked at piping it. Further down you have a little more right-of-way because you don't have this big of an area that funnels down. Mayor Boyd said that the 3 lanes would make it a much safer area.

Mr. Hendrix asked council to look at this, think about it and if you have any questions get with Mr. Crawford. We need to move on this quickly.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Jail Services Intergovernmental Agreement

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve Candler County Sheriff, City of Metter, Candler County Intergovernmental Agreement regarding jail services. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The main change was there is a 60 day opt out verses 30 days. This agreement will expire June 30, 2025.

Dispatch Services Intergovernmental Agreement

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the Candler County Sheriff, City of Metter, Candler County Intergovernmental Agreement regarding dispatch services. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The main change was there is a 60 day opt out verses 30 days. This agreement will expire December 31, 2024.

2022 Memorandum of Understanding with Southeastern Regional Drug Office "Task Force"

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the City of Metter pledging to participate in the Southeastern Regional Drug Office "Task Force" for the calendar year 2022, in

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accordance with the provisions of the attached 2022 Memorandum of Understanding. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Policies and Procedures for Metter Depot

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the updated policy and procedures for the rental of the City of Metter Depot facility. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Councilman McKie recommended to clarify the cancelation portion of the policy. Mr. Crawford agreed. The vote was unanimous.

Policies and Procedures for Metter Community Center

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the updated policy and procedures for the rental of the City of Metter Community Center with the clarification of the cancelation portion of the policy. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Alcohol License Application – Tejash J. Shah, Shriji 6 Inc., dba Tobacco Palace

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a retail alcoholic beverage license for off premise consumption of beer and wine applied for by Tejash J. Shah, Shriji 6 Inc., dba Tobacco Palace located at 855 S. Lewis Street, Metter, Georgia, contingent upon meeting all requirements of the Metter Municipal Code Chapter 5.08 Alcoholic Beverages. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Alcohol License Application – Alpeshkumar M. Patel, Vadek2, LLC

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a retail alcoholic beverage license for off premise consumption of distilled spirits applied for by Alpeshkumar M. Patel, Vadek2, LLC located at 275 N. Lewis Street, Metter, Georgia, contingent upon meeting all requirements of the Metter Municipal Code Chapter 5.08 Alcoholic Beverages. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Reappointing Ty Tyson to the Airport Authority

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve a Resolution reappointing Mr. Ty Tyson to the Metter-Candler Airport Authority for a three-year term expiring on December 31, 2024. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Opening CDBG Checking Account

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to adopt a Resolution to open a non-interest-bearing checking account at Queensborough National Bank & Trust for the purpose of deposits and distribution of the City of Metter Community Development Block Grant receipts due Metter, Georgia. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental written reports were placed in the agenda packet for council's review.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Crawford reported on the following:

1. The U.S. Treasury Department has issued broader guidelines for the use of the American Rescue Plan funds. These funds can now be used to assist with dilapidated housing and housing incentives. A splash pad could be paid for with these funds. Ineligible Uses include the following: 1) Changes that reduce net tax revenue must not be offset with American Rescue Plan funds, 2) Extraordinary payments into a pension fund are a prohibited use of this funding, and 3) Other restrictions apply to eligible uses. This money cannot be used to match grant funds. We recommend that the Mayor and Council meet to develop an expenditure plan for the funds that the City will receive.
2. Met with a housing developer interested in low to moderate housing, duplexes and 1200 square foot homes. It was a very positive meeting. We showed several pieces of property.
3. Would like to hold a city update session for Mayor and Council. Mr. Crawford said he would like to schedule a planning retreat with Mayor and Council for January or February.
4. Need to address City employee recruitment issues, lack of applicants and low pay
5. Recommend that the City contract with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to conduct a salary study. Mr. Crawford said that he contacted them, and they are not available right now, so he is going to look at adjusting the pay scales himself.

Mr. Crawford said he would like to schedule a meeting with Mayor and Council to develop an expenditure plan for the ARPA funds. Council agreed to meet immediately following the November regular council meeting.

Councilman McKie said he would like to see the following two items on the November agenda:

1. The \$100 water credit to each customer that have been here for 12 months as of September 1, 2021.
2. \$2,000 bonus for the essential worker employees.

Mayor Boyd expressed that he thought the \$180,000 used to give each water customer a \$100 credit could be used in a better way to benefit the citizens. Council agreed to list the 2 items suggested by Councilman McKie on the November agenda.

Councilman McGregor would like for the splash pad to be a priority.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd informed council that the city is looking at a lot of challenges going forward. We need to look at our comprehensive plan, pull it out and study it.

Mayor Boyd thanked Mayor Pro tem Kilcrease for filling in for him at the homecoming parade.

Mayor Boyd announced that the city was finally approved for the \$750,000 CDBG grant. It took three years to get it.

Councilwoman Taylor announced that the Witches Night Out sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce was a very good event. There was a lot of buzz about the good things going on downtown Metter.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk