

CITY OF METTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2017  
5:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held in the council chambers at city hall on Monday, August 14 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Billy Trapnell  
Councilman Ed Boyd  
Councilman Paul MacGregor  
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease  
Councilman Gregory Thomas  
City Manager Mandi Cody  
City Clerk Angie Conner  
Police Chief Mack Seckinger  
Fire Chief Jason Douglas  
Police Captain Robert Shore  
Welcome Center Manager Victoria Gaitten  
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix  
Purchasing/HR Manager Missy Edenfield  
Carvy Snell – Metter Advertiser

Attending were the following guests:

Heidi Raposa – Animal Shelter Volunteer  
Shelly Strange – Animal Shelter Volunteer  
Glyn Thrift – Chairman Candler County Board of Commissioners  
Alton & Vina Faye Slater

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Mayor Trapnell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Councilwoman Kilcrease gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilman Thomas 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:

Called Meeting, Monday, June 20, 2017  
Called Meeting, Thursday, June 29, 2017  
Regular Meeting, Monday, July 10, 2017

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

**GUEST RECOGNITIONS**

There were no guests listed on the agenda.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Intergovernmental Agreement with Candler County to Hold 2017 General Election**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Metter, Candler County, and Probate Judge of Candler County for the Probate Judge of Candler County to conduct the 2017 municipal election. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

### **Quit Claim Deed- Old Metter Police Department**

Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve a Quit-Claim Deed to revert the following City of Metter property back to Candler County Board of Commissioners: Parcel #M43015 – 10 W. Candler Street, Metter, GA: .40 acres (Old Metter Police Department; Old Candler County Jail). Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. Ms. Cody said that she considered this last year; to give it back to the Candler County Board of Commissioners if they were interested. Then Hurricane Matthew came through and damaged the building. We filed the damages on our insurance. We received a check from the insurance company in the amount of \$13,000. At this time we have not made any repairs. Ms. Cody said there are two options:

1. We can quit claim the property to Candler County and give them the \$13,000.
2. We can make the repairs and then quit claim the property to Candler County.

Mayor Trapnell said that he is concerned that \$13,000 won't cover the cost of the damages. Ms. Cody said that the insurance company only covered the damages from Hurricane Matthew. Councilwoman Kilcrease recommended giving them the building and the money. Councilman MacGregor and Councilman Boyd agreed. Mayor Trapnell called for the vote. The vote was unanimous to quit claim the property back to Candler County and to give them the \$13,000 from the insurance company for the damage from Hurricane Matthew.

### **Resolution Approving the Grayson Trapnell Special Committee for Animal Services**

Councilman MacGregor made a motion to approve a Resolution approving the Grayson Trapnell Special Committee for Animal Services as a standing committee of the Mayor and Council for the City of Metter. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

### **Resolution Closing and Opening General Fund Bank Account**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Resolution to close the City of Metter General Fund Account and to open a new General Fund Account due to bank fraud. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Ms. Cody said the bank fraud was not committed by the bank.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stop, Drop and Run 5K**

Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stop, Drop and Run 5K sponsored by the Metter Fire-Rescue, to be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017, for the purpose of purchasing smoke detectors for the successful smoke detector installation program and to raise fire safety awareness in Metter and Candler County. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

### **Mutual Fire Aid Agreement with City of Swainsboro**

Councilman Boyd made a motion to approve an Automatic Aid Agreement between the Fire Departments of the City of Metter and the City of Swainsboro. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. It is the purpose of this agreement to secure to each of the parties hereto and to pledge automatic aid in the protection of life and property from fire, and in fire-fighting.

### **Resolution Increasing Credit Card Limits**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Resolution to Increase the Maximum Credit Limit for all Municipal Credit Card Holders for the City of Metter, GA as follows:

1. Maximum credit limits for the City Manager and City Clerk shall be \$5,000 each.
2. Maximum credit limits for Mayor and Members of Council, and department heads shall be \$1,500 each.
3. Maximum credit for the City of Metter shall not exceed \$15,000.

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

### **Amendment to Purchasing Card Ordinance (First Reading)**

Councilman MacGregor made a motion to approve the first reading of the proposed amendment to the Purchasing Card Ordinance for the City of Metter. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Trapnell reported that he and Councilman Boyd will be attending a training session in Hinesville on Small Cell Towers. This session is sponsored by GMA. Mayor Trapnell said that we are in a 4G now and they are going to a 5G. There will be a lot more towers. They will be smaller and closer together. There are efforts on some of the providers of cell towers that they should be able to put them anywhere they want to no matter the zoning or ordinances.

Mayor Trapnell reported that in two weeks he, Captain Shore, Councilwoman Colson, Councilman Boyd, and Councilwoman Kilcrease will be attending an Opioid Seminar in Forsyth sponsored by GMA.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **Police Department**

Chief Seckinger submitted a written report. He also reported on training that the police department received this past month.

#### **Public Works**

Mr. Hendrix submitted a written report. Mr. Hendrix said that when we applied for the 2017 LMIG (which we did get), Georgia Department of Transportation came back offered a 2017 LMIG Safety Grant. We submitted an application for stripping and stop bars for some of our streets. Last week we received a letter that we were awarded that grant for up to \$20,000. We will be putting together specs and putting this project out to bid. We submitted thirteen streets.

#### **Fire Department**

Chief Douglas submitted a written report. All of the career firemen are now Hazmat Tech Certified. The Fire Department received a check from Metter Ford. They did a promotion last month that for every car they sold for that month, they would give the fire department \$100. They awarded the fire department with a check in the amount of \$10,000.

#### **Administration**

Mrs. Conner submitted a written report. She announced that qualifying will begin next week.

Mrs. Conner asked for Council to set the date for Trick-or-Treat in the city. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to set Trick-or-Treat for Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The last public hearing on the millage rate increase is Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> with a called meeting to follow.

## **Finance**

Ms. Cody reported Mrs. Collins along with staff is putting together information for the auditor. They are auditing our FY 2017 financials. Ms. Cody said that she and Mrs. Collins met with Blake Bloser from the auditing firm. We asked them to resolve several issues for us. She said that she asked them and encouraged them to give us their best feedback in this year's audit and not shy away from giving us any findings or recommendations for best practices. She said that they are sometimes hesitant to do that but we are asking them not to be. Ms. Cody said that we do not have any final numbers from last year yet but she has been encouraged at what she has seen so far. Once the audit is complete the auditor will present it to council.

## **City Manager's Report**

We have several job openings right now in the city and more that are forthcoming. We are not having a great success rate at attracting candidates. Ms. Cody said that she has talked with the County Administrator, School Board Superintendent, and also the Hospital Administrator and we are going to join forces with Job Training Unlimited and host a job fair. Job Training Unlimited is going to do all the advertising and setting it up free of charge. We hope to hold this in September.

Ms. Cody gave council and update on the bids that have been placed for solicitation at this point. We have out for bid for two lawnmowers for public works. We also have a bid notification and solicitation for a records management system for the police department and court ware management system for the municipal court. We are preparing materials for the LMIG Safety Grant and also for the 2017 LMIG that we received.

Mr. Hendrix said that the 2017 LMIG which council approved is resurfacing from South College Street, from Southwest Broad to Pine Street. We are going to group this project together with resurfacing Vertia Street and the sewer rehab and water extension on that street. The more you can group together when paving the better price you can get. It will be resurfacing Vertia Street from South Register Street to Kennedy Street.

Ms. Cody said that LMIG stands for Local Maintenance Incentive Grant. It is a Georgia Department of Transportation grant. It is a cash contribution towards repaving of streets. There is a formula that determines how much each city and county get. Whatever the projects overrun, the city is responsible for. We got \$70,000 in LMIG funds for 2017. It costs about \$125,000 to pave one mile. Mr. Hendrix said that the city will have to match 10% of that since we have the TE Projects.

Ms. Cody said that once we receive the bids, these items will come back to council for approval.

Ms. Cody said that on Wednesday our committee met with the county committee regarding the upcoming SPLOST referendum. It was a very positive meeting.

Mayor reported on the House Rural Economic Development group that is coming here in September. If you go online you can see some of the meetings. This one will be video- taped and streamed live over the internet. They have had them in several other places. This is a two year program that the Speaker of the House put together at the encouragement of two rural representatives. Metter/Candler County was chosen as one of the sites. The topic will be long-term health care. Mayor Trapnell encouraged council to go or either watch it on the internet. They are looking at all the facets the state can do to hopefully bring more economic development into Rural Georgia because they realize that metro is where all the money is. In Rural Georgia without some economic development we are going to be hurting. Georgia Grown will bring their mobile unit and cook for this group at the Depot. Hopefully, all of us in Rural Georgia will benefit from this.

Councilwoman Kilcrease said that a resident reported that there is a street sign torn down on the hill and laid to the side. There is also a hole up there that needs covering on Hodges Street.

Councilman Boyd said he is concerned about the homelessness in our community. The police picked up a homeless man behind a building in town. Councilman Boyd said that he had heard that the churches in Statesboro were taking care of homeless people, putting them through a

three-month program and getting them rehabilitated and back out on their own. They refused to take the person from Metter. They only take people from Statesboro and Bulloch County. Councilman Boyd asked everyone to put on their thinking caps to see if there is any way we can help these people in Metter. There might be something we can do to more formally address the problem. We may be able to somehow work out an arrangement with Bulloch County to alter their qualifications. It just seems to be ashamed that there is a program 20 miles away and non-acceptable for us. It might be that we could break through that barrier. All the surrounding counties probably have the same problem.

Councilman Boyd gave an update on the SPLOST committee meeting. The big issue was the county's desire to create a county-wide SPLOST project to retire debt that they have guaranteed. The city's main concern is; would the SPLOST repayment be legal since the county did not hold the deed to the property. The attorneys worked through some issues and determined to work on a strategy that would help to ensure that the SPLOST payment would be legal. That would bring USDA into the equation for long term financing. It would bring Medicare and Medicaid into the equation to make lease payments which the Hospital Authority would make to the county. The roadblock is political. There is a very good chance that if the debt is structured properly then the hospital can continue to be operated in Candler County. The City is agreeing to give up around \$600,000 of this series of SPLOST. The city did not want to give up that capital fund if the hospital was just going to go away anyway. We are committed to helping any way possible to allow the hospital to survive. We feel like it is an extremely important part of our economic well-being.

Ms. Cody said that we left the meeting where the committees would recommend to their respective body that we move forward in unity on the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement to govern the SPLOST. The distributions would remain essentially the same as they are presently, which is 56% to Candler County, 40% to the City of Metter, and 4% to the Town of Pulaski. We would estimate a revenue stream of \$8,000,000 over a six year period. Before this distribution a level two county wide project, meaning 20% would be called to help relieve some of the hospital debt. That equates to about \$600,000 of revenue that will be taken from the City of Metter which would otherwise be dedicated to capital projects. Ms. Cody said that we were very committed in our stand that this should not be part of the intergovernmental agreement unless there were proper assurances for the survival and the economic health of the hospital because of its critical status in our local economy. We are hopeful that a strategy has been identified that will allow the federal government to come in and take over a significant portion of the debt and expenses of the hospital. That would allow for the retirement of a large portion of the existing debt through some financial transactions and we also understand that the USDA has some programming specifically designed for struggling rural hospitals that they can come in and help us and they have expressed some interest in doing that. So our SPLOST dollars would only be committed for that endeavor under those assurances. We are working on certain milestones that would have to be met before the city's dollars are pledged and or does it have a sunset provision of some sort in it so that if it reaches a certain calendar period or financial accumulation then that stops. We haven't worked out all the details. We are brainstorming how to structure that agreement right now but the essence being that the city and county would like to work with the Hospital Authority to resolve these issues and save the hospital but not at the expense of capital projects. This will have to come back for council to vote on as well as our citizens on the referendum.

Councilman Boyd said that the key is that we are pressing forward and not just sitting on this. Mayor Trapnell thanked both groups for putting this together.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.