

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held on Monday, April 12, 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 Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilman Paul MacGregor
Councilman Brandon Sikes
City Manager Carter Crawford
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Police Chief Robert Shore
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Director of Tourism/Business Development Heidi Jeffers
Jerri Goodman – Metter Advertiser

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Thad Dixon – Consultant & Owner, Southeastern Fire Consulting Company (SEFCCO)
Grace Dixon – Southeastern Fire Consulting Company (SEFCCO)
Bryan Aasheim – Candler County Administrator
Glynn Thrift, Chairman, Board of Commissioners of Candler County
Victoria Gaitten – Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce
Brad Jones – Candler County Board of Commissioners
Ike Haney – Metter Fire Department
Richard Deal – Lanier, Deal & Proctor
Blake Bloser – Lanier, Deal & Proctor

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- a) Budget Workshop, Monday, February 22, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
- b) Public Hearing, Monday, March 8, 2021, 5:15 p.m.
- c) Regular Meeting, Monday, March 8, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Cliff Hendrix Honoring an Employee

Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix gave a presentation honoring James McCray for his bravery and heroism.

Richard Deal – FY 2020 Audit Report

City Auditor, Richard Deal with Lanier, Deal & Proctor, gave the highlights of the FY 2020 year-end financial statements.

Financial Highlights:

- The City had total net position (assets exceeded liabilities) of \$27,037,275 at June 30, 2020.
- Total net position is comprised of the following:
 - 1) Net investment in capital assets of \$22,306,594 includes property and equipment net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by outstanding debt related to the purchase or construction of capital assets.
 - 2) Net position of \$2,510,419 is restricted by constraints imposed from outside the City such as debt covenants, grantors, laws, or regulations.
 - 3) Unrestricted net position of \$2,220,262 represents the portion available to maintain the City's continuing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The City's governmental funds reported total ending fund balance of \$3,506,496, compared to \$2,772,427 for year ended June 30, 2019. This is a \$734,069 (or 26.5%) increase.
- At June 30, 2020, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$751,900, or 22% of total General Fund expenditures.

Identified Material Weakness

- Interfund receivables/payables between multiple funds did not balance on the June 30, 2020 trial balances provided for the annual audit. Interfund receivables/payables should be reconciled monthly.

City Response: We concur with this finding and we will implement procedures to make sure interfund receivables/payables are reconciled monthly.

- During the audit it was noted that certain payments received by credit card were not posted to the appropriate bank accounts on the general ledger. As a result, the balances reported on the books for several bank accounts were inaccurate. All bank accounts should be reconciled at the end of each month and all uncleared transactions recorded in each bank account on the general ledger should be reviewed for accuracy to determine any balancing and posting issues on a timely basis.

City Response: We concur with this finding and we will begin to review the uncleared transactions recorded in each bank account on the general ledger monthly to ensure that all credit card receipts are properly posted.

Compliance and Other Matters

- At June 30, 2020 the general fund owed the 2018 SPLOST fund \$4,257 and the 2005 SPLOST fund owed the 2018 SPLOST fund \$3,104 for expenditures incurred under the incorrect SPLOST referendum. SPLOST funds are not to be commingled with other funds of the City.

City Response: We concur with this finding and we will reimburse the 2018 SPLOST fund in the current fiscal year.

Thad Dixon – Southeastern Fire Consulting Company (SEFCCO)

Mr. Thad Dixon, Consultant and Owner, Southeastern Fire Consulting Company was hired by the City of Metter in March 2020 to look at the fire services for the entire county. First, we identified the areas where improvement can be made and divided it into 2 immediate needs, 1) fire department, and 2) fire protection district.

ISO looks at fire, water, E-911 and community risk reduction when determining the ISO rating. The largest deficiency is the lack of recognized fire protection. Recognized fire protection is 5 road miles of a station. Outside 5 miles is considered not a covered district, which equals a class 10. It measures distance verses response time.

There is a critical need for improvement in the entire county for safety and fire ratings. A plan was presented that would put 95 to 98 percent of the district within 5 miles of a station. The minimum number of stations is 9 including the 2 we already have. We will need an engine and service truck tanker at each location with a 2 to 3 bay station. This is a strategic plan.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance - Annexation – Ganesh SV Metter MPMP, LLC

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an ordinance to annex 1.622 acres of property owned by Ganesh SV Metter MPMP, LLC located on South Lewis Street. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. This was the second reading of the ordinance.

City/County Dispute on Fire Capital Budget

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a proposal to the Candler County Board of Commissioners for consideration to resolve dispute on the fire capital budget. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion. The proposal is as follows:

Fire Capital Budget Dispute Proposal

- 1) The City will adopt a resolution acknowledging that the 2018 SDS Fire Agreement requires County approval prior to any capital purchase for which the County will have an obligation for payment.
- 2) The City agrees to pay for the fire radio system.
- 3) The City accepts ownership of the industrial park pond.
- 4) The City will reduce water charges to the County Recreation Department for irrigation to a flat rate equal to 50% of the costs, using the past 12 months billing as a basis for billing for the next 12 months. The total water billing for irrigation for the previous 12 months was \$16,976.00. Based on this amount, the flat rate charges for the next 12 months would equal \$8,400.00. This reduction would go into effect immediately upon the County Commission’s approval. The City will work with the Recreation Department to develop a water conservation plan in order to further reduce costs.
- 5) The County will pay a capital stipend of \$36,620 per year for the fiscal years FY 2021 – FY 2025 to the City of Metter. This stipend will satisfy all claimed capital obligation of County for fire equipment purchased prior to January 1, 2021. This stipend agreement shall only be in force if neither party opts out of the SDS agreement for fire services.

Councilwoman Taylor stated that we have got to resolve this issue with the county. It has been going on way to long. Councilwoman Kilcrease stated that we must have a resolution. Councilman Sikes agreed. After no further comments, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The vote was unanimous.

Colley Ford Tractor – Low Bid on Tractor and Mower

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the low bid from Colley Tractor Company in the amount of \$71,650.00 for a New Holland Power Star 100 tractor and a Hardi LR40148 mower for the Streets & Lanes Department as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Alcohol License Application – Burlap and Lace Market & Coffee Bar

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an application for alcoholic beverage license for off premise consumption of beer and wine submitted by Timothy Floyd Coleman, Metter Market, LLC dba Burlap and Lace Market & Coffee Bar located at 10 North Lewis Street, Metter, Georgia. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Alcohol License Application – M-Market

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an application for alcoholic beverage license for off premise consumption of beer and wine submitted by Mohnish J. Patel, Shriji 7, LLC dba M-Market located at 316 SE Broad Street, Metter, Georgia. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Chief Douglas stated that they have not passed their life safety inspections. Councilwoman Kilcrease rescinded her motion and Councilwoman Taylor rescinded her second. Council will take this issue back up once they pass the life safety inspection.

Community Center and Depot

Council had a discussion on reopening the Depot and Community Center and moving the city council meetings back to city hall. The Community Center and Depot have been closed for about a year now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. City Manager Carter Crawford said that Governor Kemp has changed the restrictions on gatherings. He recommended that council consider reopening the Community Center and Depot for rentals. Council agreed to open the buildings to the public beginning May 1, 2021.

Council also decided to continue meeting at the Metter Police Department Courtroom.

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) Met with the new Tax Commissioner Jason Grimes. We need to sign a new contract with Mr. Grimes since the old contract is with the former Tax Commissioner. Mr. Grimes is putting a contract together for Mayor and Council to consider. He also said that there are about \$900,000 past due taxes on the books, and he plans to have a tax sale in September.
- 2) Mr. Crawford announced that the city is scheduled to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. We will receive half of the money this year and the other half next year. This is restricted for certain uses.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd reported on the following:

- 1) He thanked James McCray for helping Ms. Edna Lanier.
- 2) He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- 3) He thanked Victoria Gaitten, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce, for the fantastic festival this year. He said it was very COVID appropriate.
- 4) He commented that the Department of Health reported only 3 cases of COVID-19 in the last few weeks, so things seem to be improving.
- 5) He thanked Bryan Aasheim, County Administrator, and the Candler County Board of Commissioners for their letter of support regarding the CDBG project.
- 6) Thanked the auditors for their time and report.
- 7) Thanked council for their purchase of the tractor.
- 8) He said he is proud of the new businesses and the existing businesses going through rehab.
- 9) Had a request from a citizen to stop right hand turns on red at the intersection of Hwy 46 and Hwy 121. The citizen is handicapped and rides a scooter. He reported that he almost got hit at that intersection. Mayor Boyd cautioned everyone to be careful when making those turns.
- 10) He thanked council, Thad Dixon, and Grace Dixon for being present at the meeting.
- 11) He also mentioned the consideration of putting Wi-Fi at the Jaycee Park.

Cliff Hendrix asked council to take a look at the destruction that has been done at the Jaycee Park. Someone tore up the fence, broke some of the concrete picnic tables and tore down one of the basketball goals. He said that repairs are being made.

Councilwoman Taylor informed council that we have a serious problem because the restaurants are having to close early since they cannot find any help.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilman Sikes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk