

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

A regular meeting was held on Monday, July 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 Rashida Taylor
Councilman Brandon Sikes
Councilman James D. McKie
City Manager Carter Crawford
City Clerk Angie Conner
Police Investigator Tim Platt
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Jerri Goodman – Metter Advertiser

Councilman Paul MacGregor and Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease were absent from this meeting.

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Emmanuel Tillman
Keith Dixon
Rosa L. McCullough
Chatavis Taylor
Billy Trapnell

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Sikes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilman Sikes gave the invocation.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve the agenda deleting Item G. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- a) Regular Meeting, Monday, June 14, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Amendment

First reading of an ordinance amending the City Charter by changing the adoption of the City's annual budget by an ordinance to adoption by resolution of Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Amendment Application Submitted by Kendall C. Stapleton

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve an application for a zoning amendment submitted by Kendall C. Stapleton to rezone Metter Tax Map Parcel M43 060 N. Leroy Street from R-3 (Two Family Residential) to R-5M (Single Family Manufactured/Modular Homes) to allow for a manufactured home. This motion died due to the lack of a second.

Alcoholic Beverage License Application – Tomasa Angel Compos for Sabor Michoacano LLC dba Sabor Michoacano

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve a retail alcoholic beverage license for on premises consumption of beer and wine and pouring license for on premises consumption of distilled spirits by the drink; applicant Tomasa Angel Compos for Sabor Michoacano LLC dba Sabor Michoacano located at 30 NW Broad Street, Metter, GA, contingent upon meeting all requirements of the Metter Municipal Code Chapter 5.08 Alcoholic Beverages. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Alcoholic Beverage License Application – Sneha Gilani at Metter MLK, Inc.

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve a retail alcoholic beverage license for off premises consumption of beer and wine applied for by Sneha Gilani at Metter MLK, Inc. located at 55 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Metter, GA, contingent upon meeting all

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requirements of the Metter Municipal Code Chapter 5.08 Alcoholic Beverages. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Request to Close Portion of North Rountree Street During the Free Community Kids Day Event

Councilman McKie made a motion to close the portion of North Rountree Street from S. Broad Street to N. Broad Street on Saturday, August 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as requested by Metter Chiropractic Center for Free Community Kids Day in the Park. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Extending the City of Metter Business Development Incentive Plan

Councilman McKie made a motion to adopt a Resolution continuing the City of Metter Business Development Incentive Plan for another 36 months. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution to Open a New Checking Account for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Money

Councilman Sikes made a motion to adopt a Resolution to open an interest-bearing checking account at Queensborough National Bank & Trust for the purpose of deposits and distribution of the City of Metter ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) receipts due Metter, Georgia. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Selection of Architectural Services for New Fire Station

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve a contract for architectural services with Goodwyn Mills and Cawood (GMC) for the design of a new fire station as recommended by the Committee. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Job Training Unlimited Request to Use Office Space at the Community Center

Mr. Crawford commented that Jobs Training Unlimited has requested the use of office space at the Community Center due to budget cuts. Mr. Keith Dixon, representing Job Training Unlimited, was present to ask the City Council to consider allowing Job Training Unlimited to use the office space at the Community Center. He said that due to budget cuts they have had to close some of the offices and layoff people. The office in Metter was maned 5 days a week but was cut to 3days and now it is 2 days. In other cities, where possible, we have moved in with the Technical Colleges to save on rent. Councilwoman Taylor asked Mr. Dixon if he had tried contacting the technical college in Metter. He said that they do not have any extra space. She asked Mr. Dixon if he had checked with the landlord to see if the rent could be lowered. Mr. Dixon said that he had not.

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Councilwoman Taylor said that we have others asking for the same thing. We need to be consistent and fair with everyone. Currently, we do not have any policies or check lists. She suggested that the city investigate establishing some guidelines for this. Councilman McKie agreed. He said that although he supports the business, we do not have a system set up for this. We need to come up with one and it needs to be fair to everyone.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to deny the request from Job Training Unlimited for the use of office space at the Community Center. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Free Adoptions at Animal Shelter

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve free adoptions at the animal shelter for the months of July and August. 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 that the city has received \$736,043 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will receive an additional \$736,043 in the year 2022. We have a meeting scheduled for August 21st to discuss a plan to use the money.

Mr. Crawford informed the Mayor and Council that he and Heidi would be giving a presentation on the incubator at the GMA Convention.

Mr. Crawford reported that the city revenues are looking good. He said that he is very pleased and grateful to city staff for making this happen. He said he enjoys working with staff and Mayor and Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd reported on the following:

1. The GMA Convention is coming up soon. We need to appoint a voting delegate for the city. Everyone agreed to appoint Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease as the voting delegate and the GMA president for our proxy vote.
2. Mayor Boyd attended the July 3rd event sponsored by the Historical Society and the VFW. He said that the event got off to a slow start. The museum was very impressive. He encouraged council to visit.
3. There was a ribbon cutting at the yoga studio for the added retail shop.
4. There are 25 clients in the incubator.

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5. The Metter Police and Fire Departments are sponsoring a back-to-school activity at the end of July.
6. The city received an approval letter from the state on the recent changes to the SDS agreement.
7. Thanked the Council for the selection of an architect firm for the new fire station.

Mayor Boyd called on former Mayor Billy Trapnell, who was a guest at the meeting. Mr. Trapnell stated that he had come to support Mr. Dixon in his request for office space at the Community Center. Mr. Trapnell said that he has served on the job training board for many years. The Regional Commission keeps the books for Job Training Unlimited. He said that Mr. Dixon and his group does an excellent job. It is amazing what these funds have done for people.

Mayor Boyd said that the city would work on a plan. We will research to come up with some rules and regulations for the use of city property. Once this is accomplished, we can revisit this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk