

**CITY OF METTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022  
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of city council was held on Monday, October 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd  
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease  
Councilman Gregg Stewart  
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor  
Councilman Brandon Sikes  
City Manager Carter Crawford  
Finance Manager Cindy Collins  
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix  
Jerri Goodman, Metter Advertiser

Councilman James McKie was not present at this meeting.

**GUESTS**

Ricky Patrick

**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.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda adding Item M – to set a Public Hearing for zoning purposes. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Regular Meeting, October 10, 2022

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- a) Regular Meeting, Monday, September 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
- b) Called Meeting, Thursday, September 29, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations listed on the agenda.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Alcohol License Application**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an application for retail alcoholic beverage license; on premise consumption of beer and wine and pouring license for on premise consumption of distilled spirits by the drink submitted by Steven Richard Patrick, RickBev, Inc. dba The Pond House located at 1320 Crabby Lane, Metter, GA. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve an application for retail alcoholic beverage license; on premise consumption of beer and wine and pouring license for on premise consumption of distilled spirits by the drink submitted by Steven Richard Patrick, RickBev, Inc. dba The Pond House located at 1320 Crabby Lane, Metter, GA approval to serve alcohol on the outside deck area of the building. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

#### **Ordinance Amendment – Alcohol Beverage**

The following amendment to the City of Metter Alcohol Beverage Ordinance was presented as a first reading:

City of Metter’s Alcohol Beverage Ordinance Section 1, “**5.08.030 Violations – Civil and Criminal Penalties**”, **D. Duty of municipal court clerk; duty of city clerk** and Section 2, “**5.08.160 Application Process**”.

**Application Privacy Rights Notification Policy Standard Operating Procedure**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an Applicant Privacy Rights Notification Policy Standard Operating Procedure for information derived from the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Criminal Justice System (CJIS) Network. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Request for Street Closure**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve a request from BSD Excellence, Sonji Johnson to close North Rountree Street from South Broad Street to North Broad Street for a fall festival on October 22, 2022, from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Bid Award – Portable Generator**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to award the bid for a portable generator to Florida Pumping Systems in the amount of \$47,391.40 as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Set Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to set a public hearing for Monday, November 14, 2022, 5:15 p.m. to consider an application for a conditional use of the Metter Zoning Ordinance to allow for a landscape plant nursery at 811 Elmer Street as requested by Grady Lanier. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Purchase of Christmas Tree**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the purchase of a 16-foot Christmas Tree including decorations from Lights Over Atlanta in the amount of \$23,875.00. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. Council had reservations about spending that much for a Christmas Tree. City Manager Carter Crawford recommended to give staff more time to find a tree for \$18,500.00 or less. If we cannot get a satisfactory quote, then we can wait until next year. The motion died because all council members were opposed to spending \$23,875.00 for a Christmas Tree.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion giving Mr. Crawford permission to shop for a Christmas Tree and not to exceed \$18,500.00. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Resolution Reappointing Member to Tree Board**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a resolution reappointing Mrs. Judy Swint to the Metter Tree Board for a three-year term beginning November 14, 2022 and ending November 14, 2025. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Resolution Reappointing Member to Tree Board**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a resolution reappointing Mrs. Nancy Woodard to the Metter Tree Board for a three-year term beginning November 14, 2022 and ending November 14, 2023. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Resolution Declaring Surplus**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a resolution to declare a 2012 Ford Taurus (F1AHP2DW1CG129617) issued to the Metter Police Department as surplus and to allow HR/Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield to advertise on GOVDEALS. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Quitclaim Deed – Alley – Lovett’s Heating & Air**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve a request from Adam Lovett, Lovett’s Heating and Air, LLC for the City of Metter to quitclaim the alley that runs from N. Terrell St. to N. Trapnell St. and half the alley that runs from E. Lee St. to the N. Terrell St., and N. Trapnell St. alley as shown on attached map (existing Parcel Tax ID: M55 042, 040, 041, 039). Councilman Stewart seconded the motion. Councilwoman Taylor asked why do we need to quit claim the alley for him to use? City Manager Carter Crawford said that he will have equipment moving in and out places and was worried about children and others walking up and down the ally. It would be a liability. He wants the city to quitclaim the parts of the alley that are adjacent to his property. Councilwoman Taylor said there are other businesses that utilize allies all over the city. So, what makes this one any different? Mr. Crawford said that his request is from a safety issue. He owns the property on both sides of the alley. Councilwoman Taylor said that she can understand the alley between the buildings but does not see the purpose of closing the one behind the building. Councilman Stewart said if someone used the part of the alley that won’t be closed how would they turn around? Mr. Crawford said Mr. Lovett is also worried about people stealing stuff off of his equipment that sits outside. If he owns it, then he can block it off. Councilman Sikes said that Mr. Lovett wants to put a fence up. He wants to put up a fence to keep his equipment safe. Mayor Boyd said that Mr. Lovett owns the buildings separated by an alley in order to secure them without having to secure 2 buildings he wants to make it one piece of property. There is precedence for this over where Food Lion is located. Matter of fact, this may be the same alley on the other side of the street. There was an alley that ran in front of Food Lion. That alley was done away with years ago when it was Piggly Wiggly. Mayor Boyd said

that he went and looked at it. Councilwoman Taylor said she would like to look at it herself before making a decision. Mayor Boyd said there's not a continuous alley on the other side of the street (N. Trapnell St.). There is really no reason to travel this alley if all that property is owned on both sides which means the entire alley would be owned by one entity. It puts a commercial tract back together. We do not have any utilities running through there. Councilman Stewart said he understood the reasoning. Councilwoman Taylor said she understands too but just haven't looked at it. Councilman Sikes and Councilwoman Kilcrease did not see a problem with closing it especially since it is not used for anything. Councilwoman Taylor said she knows a lot of people walks thru there. Councilwoman Kilcrease, Councilman Sikes, and Councilman Stewart all voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Taylor said she just wasn't voting so she abstained because she didn't have enough information. The motion carried.

**Approval to Write a Letter to Lescak Enterprises, Inc.**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to allow City Manager Carter Crawford to send a certified letter to Lescak Enterprises, Inc. giving him **10 days** from the receipt of the letter to submit verification that property located at 18 SE Broad Street is being used as a boarding house as well as proof that state guidelines are being met. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Councilwoman Kilcrease asked Mr. Crawford what was going on with this issue now. Mr. Crawford said that council instructed him last month to send the letter regarding the boarding house issues. The letter was addressed to Mr. Gary Lescak. Mr. Lescak sent back and said that the letter should have been addressed to Lescak Enterprises, Inc. not him. Councilman Sikes said to tie everyone of them in together, the multiple entities and put it all in one letter. Mr. Crawford said he is going to let the city attorney write the letter. He said the city attorney can write a proper letter and try to cover all the bases on this one. After no further discussion, Mayor Boyd called for the vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Approval to Set Zoning Hearing**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to set a public hearing for Monday, November 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to consider a zoning classification of property being annexed into the city limits of Metter from the Metter Candler County Airport Authority consisting of 9.63 acres (parcel number 028-008-002) to be zoned HOC (Highway Orientated Commercial). Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Written reports were placed in the agenda packets for council to review.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Crawford reported on the following:

1. Architect completed designs for new fire station with an estimated cost of \$5,000,000.00. We will be reviewing the design and exploring areas to borrow the money.
2. Tomorrow, we meet with GMA to review our current City of Metter Employee Retirement Plan to see if we can find a better plan for our employees
3. The City of Metter along with UGA, GSU, and the Georgia Department of Agriculture are applying with the State of Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida for a multi-state agricultural grant. It is a \$40,000,000.00 grant. Part of it is to help disadvantaged farmers.
4. Gave an update on the Recreational Grant to complete upgrades on the downtown parks. The engineers are completing the final designs. The grant writer is retired from Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He knows all about these kinds of grants. The deadline to apply is November 18, 2022. Mr. Crawford said he wanted to put exercise stations in the park for a cost of around \$18,000.00. The key to this is recreation and exercise. There will also be a walkway all around it. We are starting to get a lot of applications for the use of the park. The original design was done in 2000. After 20 years we are hopefully gone get this done.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Boyd reported the following:

1. Hopefully the downtown project will happen. It's been in the making for many years. We have gotten grants over the years to work on it a place at the time. We look forward to having a completion.
2. Made note of the new chairs in the council room, replacing the ones that were purchased in the mid 90's.
3. Last year we got a lot of criticism on our Christmas tree in the far end of the park. A lot of cities have gone to a commercial type of Christmas tree, which are not inexpensive. The key point on a commercial tree is, yes, the cost seems to be ridiculously high but if the tree will last for 10 years, then you get to amortize the cost over time. That makes it not as bad as it seems. Mayor Boyd said that he appreciates council willingness to let Mr. Crawford to do some shopping and the confidence they placed in his ability to get us a good deal.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

After no further discussion, Councilman Sikes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

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Angie Conner, City Clerk