

**CITY OF METTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of city council was held on Monday, April 10, 2023, 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 James D. McKie  
City Manager Carter Crawford  
City Clerk Angie Conner  
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix  
Police Chief Robert Shore  
Fire Chief Jason Douglas  
Director of Economic Development/Tourism Heidi Jeffers

Councilman Brandon Sikes was not present at this meeting.

**GUESTS**

Ben McKay – Assistant Director, Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research,  
Georgia Southern University  
Wycliffe Lovelace – Georgia Southern University

**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) Regular Meeting, Monday, March 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
- b) Called Meeting, Monday, March 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Metter/Candler County Growth Management Study**

Mr. Ben McKay and Mr. Wycliffe Lovelace presented the Metter/Candler County Growth Management Study completed by the Center for Business Research Analytics and Economic Research & EDA University Center Program, Georgia Southern University.

**Update to City of Metter Zoning Ordinance and Map**

City Manager Carter Crawford informed the council that he had a couple of quotes to update the City of Metter Zoning Ordinance and Map. One from Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$25,000.00 and one from Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission in the amount of \$5,000.00. Mr. Crawford said that his recommendation is to approve the low bid from the Regional Commission. Mayor Boyd said that the county is pursuing zoning ordinances now and we need to be a part of it, especially the area around us. We need to coordinate with the county and the Industrial Authority. We will possibly be getting more requests for water and sewer infrastructure. We need an agreement with the community as to where we want to go. Councilwoman Taylor said she is not sure how much time the Regional Commission will have to put into this project. The other company has a lot of experience. She said that \$20,000.00 is not that much more.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Expansion of Downtown Limits – Downtown Development Authority**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the attached map, labeled Business District Streets, expanding the downtown limits of the Downtown Development Authority of Metter to the major highway corridors, supporting economic development in the City of Metter. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Quote to Update City of Metter Zoning Ordinance and Map**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the quote from Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission in the amount of \$5,000.00 as recommended by City Manager Carter Crawford, to update the City of Metter Zoning Ordinance and Map. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. Councilwoman Taylor said that Jerry Weitz & Associates looks very competent, and they have worked with other cities. Councilwoman McKie agreed to go ahead and spend \$20,000.00 and get it done. Councilman Stewart said we could find another city and incorporate their ordinances. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Hendrix explained that this is just to update the zoning ordinances not to reevaluate the zoning areas of the city. Councilwoman Taylor withdrew the motion and Councilwoman Kilcrease withdrew her second. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to table this issue for further study. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Brannen Street Sewer Extension Project**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the low bid from Tyson Utilities, Inc. in the amount of \$49,524.90 for the Brannen Street Sewer Extension Project as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. This will be paid out of the 2018 SPLOST for utilities which has a balance of \$215,155.65. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Bid Award – Community Center**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the sole bid from Buddy’s Painting in the amount of \$9,000.00 to paint the inside of the Community Center as recommended by Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. There was \$11,000.00 budgeted for this project which included painting the kitchen, kitchen cabinets, big room, small room, and hallways.

**Lease Agreement – Candler County School District – Property located at 421 West Vertia Street**

Councilman McKie made a motion to approve a lease agreement between the Mayor and City Council of Metter, Georgia and the Candler County School District for property located at 421 W. Vertia Street, Metter, Georgia 30439. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Juneteenth Festival**

Councilman McKie made a motion to allow the following for the Juneteenth Festival to be held on June 17, 2023: 1) Use of city picnic tables, 2) Use of stage, 3) No charge for polycarts, and 4) Closure of N. Rountree Street from S. Broad Street to N. Broad Street. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with one

Regular Meeting, April 10, 2023

abstention. Councilwoman Taylor abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest since she is organizing the festival.

**Request for Street Closures**

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the request from the Candler County Board of Education to close S. Rountree Street from Hwy 46 to Vertia Street; Vertia Street from S. Rountree St. to S. College St.; and S. College Street from Hwy 46 to Pine Street (all streets necessary for the event) on April 20, 2023, from 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for Another Bloomin Fun Run involving an obstacle course of inflatables and other fun activities. Councilman McKie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. (This activity was cancelled for April 7, 2023 and rescheduled for April 20, 2023).

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

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

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Crawford presented the 2024 proposed budget workshop calendar as follows:

**Monday, May 15, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.**

Review the following proposed dept. budgets:

- Governing Body
- Administration
- Public Works

**Monday May 22, 2023**

Review the following proposed dept. budgets:

- Public Safety
- Economic Development
- Welcome Center
- Non-Departmental

Mr. Crawford reported on the following:

1. The Splash Pad Park is moving right along. The fence area will be extended.
2. Asked council to look at the sample bricks for the fire station and give a decision as soon as possible. Prices keep going up.
3. Actions at the Innovation Center
4. Finances are in good standing, and we have a positive fund balance.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Thanked Heidi and Carter for the success of the Innovation Center.
2. The park looked great for the festival even though we had bad weather.
3. GMA District Meeting tomorrow night in Hazlehurst. Councilwoman Taylor will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President for District 9.
4. Thanked the past and present council for the property at the old high school building. Thanked the Board of Education for leasing part of that building. We have filled it up with three tenants.
5. SPLOST meeting with Candler County Commissioners on May 1, 2023.
6. Thanked Mrs. Conner for completing the GMA Convention registrations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

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Angie Conner, City Clerk