

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 7:00 p. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Billy Trapnell
Mayor Pro tem Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman Ed Boyd
Councilwoman Marsha Colson
Councilman Paul MacGregor
City Manager Mandi Cody
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Chief of Police Mack Seckinger
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser
City Attorney Brent Carter
Animal Control Officer Tommy Condrey

Councilman Gregory Thomas was absent from this meeting.

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Shelley Strange – Animal Shelter Volunteer – Concerned Citizen
Amanda Wilson – Animal Shelter Volunteer – Concerned Citizen
Faye Cardell – Concerned Citizen
Bonita Fisher – President, Pathfinders Animal Rescue, Candler County
Group of Animal Rescue Supporters
Glenn Thrift – Chairman, Candler County Board of Commissioners
Rebeca Thrift – Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer
Paul Collins – Owner of Paul’s Pond House
Dee Collins – Owner of Paul’s Pond House

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Trapnell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Colson gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Colson made a motion to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting, Monday, July 11, 2016
Public Hearing, Monday, July 11, 2016
Called Meeting, Monday, July 25, 2016
Public Hearing, Monday, July 25, 2016

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

GUEST RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Shelley Strange – Adequate Shelter for Animals

Ms. Shelley Strange addressed her request of Council to approve a Resolution for the enforcement of adequate shelter. Ms. Strange along with a group of concerned citizens requested for council to adopt a resolution to approve the enforcement of humane care of dogs by providing adequate shelter and treatment needed to prevent suffering. Ms. Strange said that there is an issue with the level of service from animal control. Ms. Strange said that she feels the system is broke and we need to fix it. She said that we need to educate the people. Mayor Trapnell said that the county will have to buy into the same rules and regulations as the city for it to work and right now the county is up in the air as to whether they will continue animal control in the county. Ms. Strange said that the city already has some ordinances dealing with the care of dogs. Councilman Boyd asked if we need to just enforce what we already have. Ms. Strange said yes. Ms. Wilson said that the present ordinances need revising. She said that if you are going to tie a dog then it must have adequate shelter. Ms. Strange wanted to know how we can fix this and when can we have answers. Mayor informed Ms. Strange that council will work with staff on this issue. Ms. Cody said that she has been meeting with staff on this issue and there seems to be a difference in opinion. Ms. Cody said that she personally went and looked at the situations which are in question. She informed Ms. Strange that she is not ready to make recommendations at this point.

Ms. Rebecca Thrift – Blood Drive Request

Ms. Rebecca Thrift, a volunteer with Red Cross, gave a presentation of the Candler County Red Cross Blood Drive “Battle of the Badges 2017”. The second annual “Battle of the Badges” will be held on September 19, 2016 at the Metter Community Center. The following agencies will be participating: Candler County EMS, Candler County Sheriff Department, Metter Fire Department, and Metter Police Department. A trophy will be presented to the agency with the highest number of votes. The winner of the “Battle of the Badges 2016” was the Candler County EMS. We are trying to pick up the blood supply. She said that they tried this last year and it seemed to work. She asked for the city’s blessing and if staff could put a little note in with the payroll checks to remind the employees of the blood drive. Mayor and Council were in support of the blood drive. Ms. Cody agreed to put the flyer in with the payroll checks

Mr. Glynn Thrift – Community Meeting

Mr. Glynn Thrift, Chairman, Candler County Board of Commissioners, informed mayor and council that a community meeting of local government agencies is scheduled for next Monday night at 5:30 at Beverick’s.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

GACP State Certification

Chief Mack Seckinger gave a presentation regarding State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program. Certification is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. The foundation of certification lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained assessors verifies that applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by a joint executive committee that the agency has met the requirements for certification.

Certification status represents a significant professional achievement. Certification acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

Chief Seckinger said that this status will reduce our GIRMA insurance by 20%. Each applicant is required to pay a \$375.00 certification fee. We will also be responsible for the travel, lodging and meals of the assessors during the pre-certification review and on-site evaluation. Chief Seckinger asked for council's approval to apply for this certification.

Ms. Cody informed council that this is an intense process. She said that hopefully it could be completed in 12 to 24 months. She commended the Chief and his officers for wanting to take this on. It is the highest form of accreditability. The officers are trained on 12 critical tasks each year.

Councilman Boyd made a motion for the City of Metter to enter into the Agency Application and Participation Agreement with the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police affirming the City's commitment to earning certification in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Association; to pay the \$375 application fee; and to authorize the City Manager to execute said contract and related documents on behalf of the City of Metter. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Request for Alcohol Licenses by Paul and Barbara Collins

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an application made by Paul Collins and Barbara Collins d/b/a Paul's Pond House located at 1320 Crabby Lane, Metter Georgia for an alcohol license for on premises consumption of beer and wine and pouring license for on premises consumption of distilled spirits by the drink. Councilwoman Colson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Executive Session

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an Executive Session for the purposes of discussing potential litigation, matters concerning real estate, and personnel. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

After the discussion was complete, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to open the meeting. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

West Lillian Street Property

Councilwoman Colson made a motion for the City of Metter to dispose of .392 acres on W. Lillian Street in accordance with state law. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Trapnell announced that there will be a GMA District meeting in October.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager's Report

Ms. Cody reported to council that all the paperwork with Candler County Hospital has been finalized for drug testing. All results will be sent to Ms. Cody.

Ms. Cody informed council that the auditor is still working on the Un-forfeited Bond Account. They seem to think there are problems with the software and operation. They will have a report very soon.

Ms. Cody said that we are starting with the annual audit procedures. She said she also talked to them about auditing the city's internal procedures.

Ms. Cody reported that we had a good employee luncheon a few weeks ago. She thanked council members for attending. She thanked Missy Edenfield for getting everything set up. She also thanked the employees for their participation. She said that she met with the police department after the luncheon. She said it is very important for all of us to spend time together.

Ms. Cody also mentioned for the council to be thinking about the ads for the city/county magazine, Georgia Trend magazine and the community ad in the local newspaper and decide if we want to participate.

Police Department Report

Chief Seckinger submitted a written report. He added that he hired a new officer last week. We still have one spot open. One officer is still in the academy. He informed mayor and council that he has received 8 or 9 applications for the Captain position.

Public Works Report

Mr. Hendrix submitted a written report. He gave an update on the progress in the park. He said that signs have been made to go in the park that says "Excuse Our Progress". The signs also have pictures of the future park.

Mr. Hendrix presented the council with brick samples for the fountain. We need to remove the existing brick and replace with new. He said that the header curbs for the sidewalk should be complete this week.

Mr. Hendrix pointed out some changes to be made to the sidewalks throughout the park, around the fountain and sitting areas. He said that the completion date is mid-November.

Mr. Snell asked will it be taken into consideration of where the new trees will be planted and will the roots buckle the sidewalk. Mr. Hendrix said that the Tree Board will be looking into that.

Mr. Hendrix reported that during the construction in the park, they found a time capsule. They also found a property marker put down by the Railroad around 1903.

Classic Main Street Report

Mrs. Riggs was not present but submitted a written report. They are beginning to lay bricks for the entrance sign on Highway 46 East.

Fire Department Report

Chief Douglas submitted a written report. Chief Douglas added that he had one fire fighter, Caleb Stillinger, to complete instructor classes. This is very intense training.

Administration Report

Mrs. Conner reported that all agreements with Invoice Cloud and Harris have been signed and returned for online payments and for accepting debit/credit cards on-site.

The photographer will be here again on Wednesday to take pictures for the magazine. Mrs. Riggs will get another list together for pictures.

Mrs. Conner talked with Mr. George at the Tax Assessors office to see when our tax information would be available since their deadline to report to the state is September 1, 2016. He said that Mrs. Sikes has filed for an extension and we could check back every couple of weeks.

Regular Meeting, August 8, 2016

Mrs. Conner reported that the county has turned the paperwork over on the community center. We have been working with Ms. Clara at the Commissioner's Office to find out how the county operated it. Also Mr. Hendrix took an inventory.

Mrs. Conner informed council that a retirement reception for Captain Calvin Walker has been scheduled for August 18, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the depot.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk

William M. Trapnell, Mayor