

**CITY OF METTER
CALLED MEETING/PUBLIC HEARINGS
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

A called meeting and two public hearings were held at City Hall on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 5:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Mayor Pro tem Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilwoman Amy Harrelson
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Councilman Brandon Sikes
Councilman Paul MacGregor
City Manager Mandi Cody
Finance Manager Cindy Collins
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Chief of Police Robert Shore
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Human Resources Missy Edenfield
Director of Tourism/Business Development Heidi Jeffers
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Stephen Taylor
John Lavender
Shaun Lee
Tiffany Lee
Laura Hoover
Renee Kalloniatis
Ben McKay
Dominique Halaby

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman MacGregor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilman Sikes gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the agenda adding the second item under New Business; a presentation by Ben McKay from Georgia Southern University on the Feasibility Study that was conducted for the approval of the City of Metter as the location of an incubator project. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Public Hearing – USDA Loans

The purpose of this hearing is to get public comments regarding the City of Metter’s application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Community Facilities for \$618,210.49 in funding to purchase radio communications equipment and a fire engine.

- a) For the Fire Engine: \$368,469 total purchase price. Application is for \$25,000 grant and the remainder in low interest loans to support the replacement of a fire engine that is past its anticipated lifespan and struggles to maintain minimum standards. The engine will serve the entirety of the service district: City of Metter, Town of Pulaski, and unincorporated Candler County.
- b) For the Public Safety Radios: The total invoice price for radio upgrades is \$249,598.64. Of this amount, \$90,388.24 in equipment is for the Police Department to serve City residents. The remaining \$159,210.40 is for equipment necessary for Metter Fire & Rescue to provide County wide services. We have applied for \$25,000 Community Facilities grant and the remainder in low interest USDA loans.

There was no response from the public. The hearing was closed at 5:35 p.m.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Variance

The purpose of this public hearing is for public comments and consideration of a Motion to approve Application C-1902 (M33-125, M33-126): Renee Kalloniatis request a conditional use variance for 20 South College Street (M33-125) and 30 South College Street (M33-126) as an expansion of the personal care home located at 30 South College Street and to consider the exception that the applicant provide a circular or U-Shaped driveway for parking ingress/egress that minimizes traffic in the adjacent alley and disruption to the neighbors by some kind of barrier made by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Steven Taylor, a resident of Grace Garden, spoke on behalf of Ms. Kalloniatis and his desire for approval of the variance. Ms. Laura Hoover had concerns for the traffic caused by the addition to the facility. She did say the parking had improved in her area since the

last meeting. Tiffany and Shaun Lee spoke on their concerns for the traffic as well as the management of the existing facility. They commented that the traffic and parking had moved from Ms. Hoovers area to their area. They have concerns with the supervision of patients as well. There were also concerns with the new facility decreasing property values. Ms. Kalloniatis, the owner of the facility, addressed all the concerns. She explained the intentions of the new driveway and the additional parking spaces. She was reassuring the residents in the vicinity of the facilities changes and improvements. She hopes to address some of the issues with signage. She had Mr. John Lavender of Lavender and Associates, the contractor, for any questions or any way he could assist.

Councilman Sikes would like to see a more detailed drawing of the additions of the driveway and parking. Councilwoman Taylor commented as to why the parking and traffic concerns had not been previously addressed during the five years they have been in business. Councilwoman Harrelson suggested revisiting and see how the parking and traffic issues are addressed. Councilman MacGregor made a motion to delay this decision. Council would like to see a more detailed drawing and a better handle on the parking and traffic situation. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:20.

Upon completion of the public hearings, Ben McKay, Assistant Director for the Center of Business Analytics and Economic Resources and Dominique Halaby, Director of Business Innovations Group of Georgia Southern University, gave a presentation on the results of the Feasibility Study conducted for the City of Metter. According to statistics collected and research completed, the City of Metter met the minimum requirements to support an incubator space in the city. The existing Public Works Building has been designated as the incubator location. The Public Works department will be relocated to the existing space at the Metter Police Department. Mandi Cody, City Manager, informed Council that more details will be available as they are worked out. She asked for Councils approval to move forward with the Incubator Project in conjunction with Georgia Southern University and Georgia Grown. Councilman MacGregor made the motion to move forward with negotiating an agreement with GSU to move forward with development of the incubator space. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Boyd asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

Cindy Collins, Finance Manager