

**CITY OF METTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019  
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 5:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd  
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease  
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor  
Councilman Brandon Sikes  
Councilwoman Amy Harrelson  
Councilman Paul MacGregor  
Interim City Manager Carter Crawford  
City Clerk Angie Conner  
Finance Manager Cindy Collins  
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix  
Chief of Police Robert Shore  
Fire Chief Jason Douglas  
HR/Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield  
Director of Tourism/Business Development Heidi Jeffers  
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Bryan Aasheim – Candler County Administrator  
Cheryl Aasheim – Animal Services Committee  
Susan Williams – Animal Services Committee  
John Miles – Candler County Sheriff  
Heidi Miles  
Glynn Thrift – Chairman, Candler County Board of Commissioners  
Victoria Gaitten – Executive Director – Metter/Candler Chamber of Commerce  
Donna Hensley  
Bonita Fisher  
Shelly Strange  
Group of Animal Supporters

**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 Harrelson made a motion to approve the agenda adding the following items:

1. Change item (b) under New Business to read as follows: Consideration of a Motion to approve free adoption Fridays until the end of the year (December 31, 2019) and free cat adoptions through September 30, 2019.
2. Change item (e) under New Business to read as follows: Consideration of a Motion to approve a base bid submitted by D&S Electric in the amount of 19,496 to be paid from the One Georgia Grant and bid Alternate 2 in the amount of \$97,295 with \$47,295 to be paid by the One Georgia Grant and \$50,000 to be paid from City 2018 SPLOST Economic Development Account, for electrical upgrades at the S. Terrell St. facility.
3. Add item (f) under New Business to read as follows: Consideration of a Motion to approve a Legal Services Agreement between the City of Metter and CarterFranklin L.L.P. as required by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development regarding the loan/grant program for the new fire truck.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kilcrease to approve the minutes the following minutes:

- a) Called Meeting/Budget Workshop, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
- b) Called Meeting, Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
- c) Called Meeting, Friday, June 14, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
- d) Budget Workshop, Friday, June 14, 2019, 9:10 a.m.
- e) Called Meeting, Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
- f) Budget Workshop, Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
- g) Regular Meeting, Monday, July 8, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
- h) Called Meeting, Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

Shelly Strange gave a presentation on her opinion as to the negative impact of the current practices of a reduced level of taxpayer funded animal services and a request for a resolution to end the health risks to the citizens. She said that she is representing a group of concerned citizens requesting a resolution for the Metter Animal Shelter to operate as an open admissions facility with policy priority to accept all animals upon notification.

She stated that this group is frustrated with the limited services that the Metter Animal Shelter is currently providing. The continuous encounters with roaming cats and dogs are a health risk to us and our children. There are numerous contagious diseases that humans can contract and other diseases that can be transmitted to our own pets.

Mrs. Strange stated that another public health problem is the risk of dog bites and cat scratch fever. When we are forced to handle these animals with unknown behaviors, many citizens do not possess the skills, equipment, humane concern, or financial means to provide for them.

She said that the group feels that they have a right to quiet enjoyment of their property without the nuisance of these animals destroying lawns, garbage cans, poultry, and livestock. Another concern is that these animals can cause traffic accidents, resulting in both human and animal suffering. All of these circumstances can result in enormous cost and injury.

There are no other animal control resources available in Candler County. As a taxpayer funded service, we are requesting that the City of Metter Animal Shelter be the responsible agency to operate as an open admission facility. Policy priority to accept all animals upon notification can significantly reduce the health risks and nuisances. To never turn away an unwanted animal will assist in combating the rapid reproduction cycle and will ensure that no animal will be left to suffer as a stray on the streets.

Ms. Bonita Fisher and Ms. Donna Hensley also spoke on this issue and were in agreeance with Mrs. Strange. Ms. Hensley said that she had spent \$4,500 of her own money for a book that she put in the school to help educate students on animals. She asked if the city would consider helping with the book.

Mayor Boyd stated that it is up to council to decide the strategy of the operation of the animal shelter and they have decided their strategy previously. They are satisfied with it.

Mayor Boyd explained that the city is in the process of adding to the shelter for more capacity. He told Mrs. Strange and the group of concerned citizens that he appreciated them bringing their concerns to the meeting. He said that council will reflect on the material that was provided and if they decide to take other actions regarding the operation of the animal shelter, then they will.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business listed on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed Tethering Ordinance**

The Grayson Trapnell Special Committee for Animal Services recommended to council that they adopt a tethering ordinance. This ordinance has been passed by the Candler County Board of Commissioners. The Committee would like for the city to pass it so that the same rules would apply to both the city and county. Councilwoman Harrelson made a motion to direct the City Attorney to review the proposed tethering ordinance as recommended by the Grayson Trapnell Committee for Animal Services. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Free Adoption Fridays**

The Grayson Trapnell Special Committee for Animal Services is recommending that City Council approve Free Adoption Fridays for the rest of this year (ending December 31, 2019) and approve free cat adoptions through September 30, 2019. Hopefully, this will help with freeing up space for other animals. Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve Free Adoption Fridays until the end of the year (December 31, 2019) and free cat adoptions through September 30, 2019.

**2020 LMIG Priority List**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the 2020 LMIG Priority list as follows: Fortner Road between W. Hiawatha St. and the National Guard Armory (3000 ft.). Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Mutual Aid Agreement with Claxton Fire Department**

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Metter Fire Department and the Claxton Fire Department. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Bid – Electrical Upgrades at S. Terrell St. Facility**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a base bid submitted by D&S Electric in the amount of \$19,496 to be paid from the One Georgia Grant and Bid Alternate 2 in the amount of \$97,295; \$47,295 to be paid by the One Georgia Grant and \$50,000 to be paid from City of Metter 2018 SPLOST Economic Development account, for electrical upgrades at the S. Terrell St. facility. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Legal Services Agreement**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Legal Services Agreement between the City of Metter and CarterFranklin L.L.P. as required by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development regarding the loan/grant program for the new fire truck. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Police Department Report**

Chief Shore submitted a written report. He added that over 250 book bags were given out during the Kids Day Program sponsored by the Police Department. Also, an Active Shooter Class has been scheduled.

**Public Works Report**

Mr. Hendrix submitted a written report.

**Fire Department Report**

Chief Douglas submitted a written report. He added that it had been an average month for fire calls. The Fire Department participated in some public safety events. Costly repairs are being made on some of the trucks.

**Administration Report**

Mrs. Conner submitted a written report. She highlighted the following:

- The new sanitation rates will be reflected on the August billing.
- Working with County Clerk Kelly Lank on the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.
- GBI performed an audit regarding the use of our non-criminal ORI number. We were found to be in compliance.
- Qualifying for the following council seats will begin August 19, 2019 to August 23, 2019:

Seat 1 District 1  
Seat 3 District 1  
Seat 5 District 2

The qualifying hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The qualifying fee is \$90. Election Day is November 5, 2019.

**Finance Report**

Mrs. Collins announced that she is working with the auditor on the audit for FY 2019. She was able to present council with financial statements from the Edmunds system. There is

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a prior year surplus of \$76,148. Mr. Crawford said he appreciates Mrs. Collins for her hard work. Mr. Crawford went through the financial statements with council.

### **HR/Purchasing Report**

Mrs. Edenfield reported that they are painting this week at the Lillian St. facility and working on the Terrell St. building.

### **Department of Economic Development/Welcome Center**

Ms. Jeffers reported on the following:

- Finishing back end of building at the Terrell St. Facility for Better Fresh Farms and the Incubator Project. The electrical upgrades will begin soon, and we are working on specs for roof bids.
- We have a business interested in locating in the incubator.
- In July, we hosted the Tourism Product Development Team.
- A representative from Georgia Grown came last week.
- On the Mainstreet Program, we are working on the by-laws and article of incorporation. We have filed for nonprofit status.

### **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Crawford reported on the following:

- Inferior Financial Software
  - 1) New software is not user friendly
  - 2) There are still conversion problems.
  - 3) Lack of training and support.
  - 4) Does not have the reporting flexibility of modern local government financial software.
  - 5) We recommend replacing Edmunds software with a more modern software. This could be accomplished through a GMA Lease Purchase.
- FY 2019 Financial Statement
  - 1) An unaudited 2019 financial statement will be provided at the August Council meeting.
- FY 2020 Proposed Budget Issues
  - 1) Proposed General Fund Revenues were over projected.
  - 2) Proposed General Fund Expenses were not correct.
  - 3) Proposed Sanitation Rates go into effect August 1, 2019.
  - 4) Proposed water/sewer rate increases that are due to go into effect on January 1, 2020 need to be revised. The Public Works Director has designed a more reasonable rate increase.
- SPLOST
  - 1) 2005 SPLOST – Unlike the voter referendums for 2011 and 2018 SPLOST, the 2005 SPLOST was project specific and could not be used on any other

projects. Therefore, a problem exists in the proposed 2020 budget because \$200,000 has been budgeted to remodel a portion of the city's school building property for a public works department. The problem is that the remaining balance of 2005 SPLOST is in reserve for a new City Fire Station and cannot be used to remodel a public works building.

- 2) 2011 SPLOST – Proposed 2020 revenues are less than proposed expenditures.
- 3) 2018 SPLOST – Proposed 2020 revenues are less than proposed expenditures.

Mr. Crawford asked mayor and council to schedule a budget workshop. It was scheduled for Monday, August 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Boyd recognized the guest in the audience and thanked them for attending. He congratulated the Police Department on the Kids Day Program. He also thanked all city departments for doing their jobs.

Councilman MacGregor informed council that he would like to see the city install a splash pad for the children. He said this would benefit the low-income people who can't afford to go to Splash in the Boro.

Mayor Boyd stated that he is glad to see the Main Street Program and the Downtown Development Authority coming together. Downtown Metter is beginning to change a little. He said our beautiful park is being used. People are using the free Wi-Fi in the park. We have new restaurants and shops locating downtown. It is beginning to evolve back from dilapidation. He said that Ronnie Flynt is thinking about opening a pecan shelling business.

Mayor Boyd gave a shout out to Jennifer Kirby for the great job she is doing at the animal shelter. He also gave a shout out to Susan and Richard Williams for all their volunteer work at the shelter. He said that he visited the facility and was impressed with the cleanliness. The shelter operation is very impressive.

Mayor Boyd announced that the new cherry picker should be in around November. This is a much-needed piece of equipment.

Mayor Boyd called on Ms. Gaitten for comments from the Chamber of Commerce. She reported on the following dates:

- 1) August 27, 2019 the Candler County Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a community pep rally at the new football field.
- 2) September 27, 2019 is the Harvest and Art Festival.
- 3) November 9, 2019 is the Food Truck Festival.

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Mayor Boyd reminded everyone of the ribbon cutting for the new Mexican Restaurant downtown.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After no further business, Councilman MacGregor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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Angie Conner, City Clerk