

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held in the council chambers at city hall on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5:30 p. m.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor pro tem Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman Brandon Sikes
Councilman Paul MacGregor
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
Interim City Manager Carter Crawford
City Clerk Angie Conner
Finance Manager Cindy Collins
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Director of Tourism/Business Development Heidi Jeffers
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
H/R Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Bryan Aasheim - Candler County Administrator
Hilda Boykin - Visitor
Kevin Palmer - Architect

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor pro tem Kilcrease called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Sikes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Taylor gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Sikes to approve the following minutes:

- a) Regular Meeting, Monday, January 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Architect Kevin Palmer gave a presentation on the proposed renovations to the inside of the Welcome Center. The main changes will be opening up the back area so that it can be used for retail. It will also include handicap restrooms. He explained that the renovations will not be changing the character of the building.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business listed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome Center Renovations

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to move forward with the inside renovations at the Welcome Center which is a budgeted item in the SPLOST account. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Bid Approval Davis Heating and Air

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve a bid in the amount of \$17,785.00 from Davis Heating and Air for the heating and air conditioning unit that also includes a 10-year parts and labor warranty at the S. Terrell Street facility. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Purchase of Pump Station Equipment

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the purchase of a Smith & Loveless Factory-Built Everlast Series 2000 pumping station equipment in the amount of \$68,172.00 for the upgrade of the Lytell Street pumping station as budgeted in Wastewater Capital Improvement. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Bid Approval Parker Engineering

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve a bid from Parker Engineering of Statesboro, Georgia in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Engineering Services for the 2020 LMIG Project. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Request from TLC Children’s Services, Inc.

Mr. Crawford explained that TLC Children’s Services, Inc. has a need for space for the Playhouse Visitation Program. At the present time the County is generously providing a space free of charge in the former Southeastern Technical College/Adult Education building at 25 W. Daniel St. The County has notified TLC that the building is slated for remodeling for additional County offices and that they would need to relocate before remodeling begins.

TLC Children’s Services, Inc. is a 501(C)3, nonprofit organization, dependent on grant and donor funding.

The classroom just inside the double doors next to the GBI office in the old Metter Elementary School would provide exactly the type of space the Playroom Visitation Program requires, with both the bathroom and the additional sink inside the room. The smaller, adjacent room would provide space for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program Director to have office space, as well, which would be beneficial to the Candler County advocacy efforts.

They are respectfully asking council to consider an agreement between the City of Metter and TLC Children’s Services to use the afore mentioned classroom. It is their understanding that if this is approved that they are responsible for the re-keying costs of the appropriate doors.

Councilwoman Taylor mentioned that she thought that TLC have other options and that she has liability concerns.

Councilman Sikes made a motion to table this request until the regular meeting on March 9, 2020 to allow for further study. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution Supporting Legislation for the Georgia Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act

This Resolution is in support of **SB 309** which will grant the authority to create a Local Government Finance Authority to issue tax-exempt bonds for pooled financing of local governments to acquire goods, materials, real and personal property, structures and supplies eligible for revenue bond financing pursuant to an intergovernmental contract. In addition, this legislation amends the Georgia Revenue Bond Law to authorize local governments to fund broadband network projects. The Georgia Municipal Association is

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recommending that local governments approve a resolution supporting legislation for the Georgia Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion approving a Resolution for Supporting Legislation for the Georgia Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

City Retirement Contributions

Mr. Crawford explained that the Finance Team has been aggressively looking for ways to decrease each department's FY 2020 budget. After careful review, we have identified some budget cuts that we feel are reasonable, while also allowing us to operate with the proposed reductions. These cuts would make funds available allowing council to reconsider fully funding employee retirement. As you are aware, the city's retirement contribution was cut by 2% (from 6% to 4%) to balance the FY 2020 budget. We are recommending that council consider revisiting this issue and consider putting the 2% back in the FY 2020 budget. This would be greatly appreciated by all employees.

Councilman Sikes made a motion to modify the current FY 2020 budget to maintain the city contribution to the employee retirement plan increasing it back to 6% from 4%. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Request for Zoning Amendment

A public hearing was held prior to this meeting to hear a request for a zoning amendment submitted by Aldric Dekle to rezone M43-055 on N. Leroy St. from R-3 (Two-Family Residential) to R-5M (Single-Family Manufactured/Modular Homes).

Mr. Hendrix explained that all zoning procedures have been properly followed. The public hearing and Planning Commission meeting were properly advertised.

There have been no objections from the public reported to City Hall.

Based on the factors of consideration for zoning map amendments given in Article XVI, the stated goals and intended land uses of the comprehensive plan, staff has a concern about spot zoning.

After the Planning Commission held their meeting, they voted unanimously to recommend that council approve the rezoning request made by Mr. Aldric Dekle.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve an application for a zoning amendment request submitted by Aldric Dekle to rezone M42-055 on N. Leroy St. from R-3 (Two-Family Residential) to R-5M (Single-Family Manufactured/Modular Homes). Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Consideration to Amend the Zoning Ordinance to Include Flea Markets

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a motion to approve the first reading of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance in regard to “Adding the Definition of a Flea Market to Appendix A. Article II, Section 2.35a and allowing Flea Markets to be held in the following Zoning Districts: CR (Neighborhood/General Commercial), L-I (Light Industrial), and HOC (Highway Oriented Commercial with a Conditional Use Permit granted by City Council)” and to set a public hearing on March 9, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. for public input on this proposed change.

Due to a lack of a motion this item died.

Request to Temporarily Close a Street

The Candler County Historical Society along with the VFW #5893, and The American Legion #108 are presenting the 2020 Independence Day Celebration on the grounds of both the History Museum and the Board of Education Complex.

The Board of Education has already given consent to the groups to use portions in front to hold events on this date (July 4, 2020).

They are requesting that the street be closed from the end of the old Canning Plant on College Street to the intersection of West Vertia Street on this date (July 4, 2020).

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve a request from the Candler County Historical Society along with the VFW #5893, and the American Legion #108 to close the street from the end of the old Canning Plant on S. College Street to the intersection of West Vertia Street on July 4, 2020 for the 2020 Independence Day Celebration. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department Report

Chief Shore submitted a written report.

Public Works Report

Mr. Hendrix submitted a written report.

Fire Department Report

Chief Douglas submitted a written report. He added that the Fire Department responded to a wreck with a fatality last Friday.

Administration Report

Mrs. Conner submitted a written report and reminded council that the Financial Disclosure Reports are due by June 30, 2020.

Finance Report

Mrs. Collins stated that she is working with Edmunds and the Auditors

HR/Purchasing Report

Mrs. Edenfield reported that one position in the Fire Department has been filled. There are 2 vacant positions in the Police Department and one in the Water Department.

Department of Economic Development/Welcome Center

Ms. Jeffers gave a brief update on the progress at the Terrell Street building.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Crawford reported that the Finance Team has reviewed the current FY 2020 budget expenses for the following City departments: Administration, Fire, and Police

The results of these reviews are as follows:

1. All City insurance coverages are to be bid out.
Liability/Property Insurance – March 2020
Health/Workers Comp Insurance – October 2020
2. The Administration and Police Departments have reduced expenditures to more than cover the costs to maintain the City Employees retirement contribution of 6% and not have to reduce the contribution to 4%.
3. The team is reviewing what contract services need to be bid out.
4. The team will continue to search the current year budget expenditures for further reductions. Once this is completed, the next area of review will focus on recovering lost revenue.

Mr. Crawford thanked each member of the team for their work and input.

Mr. Crawford announced that he would like to schedule a pre-budget meeting with mayor, council and department heads within the next two weeks. He asked everyone to look at their calendars and to get back with the City Clerk.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor pro tem Kilcrease gave a report on Mayor Ed Boyd. She said that he had surgery to repair a torn retina in his eye. It will be at least two weeks before he will be driving.

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ADJOURNMENT

After no further business, Councilman Sikes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk