

**CITY OF METTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020  
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held in the council chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:30 p. m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access was provided to the public through teleconference.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Ed Boyd  
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease  
Councilman Paul MacGregor  
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor  
Councilwoman Amy Harrelson  
Councilman Brandon Sikes  
City Manager Carter Crawford  
City Clerk Angie Conner  
Fire Chief Jason Douglas

Guests participating by phone:

Bryan Aasheim - Candler County Administrator  
Heidi Jeffers – Director of Tourism Downtown Development  
Cliff Hendrix – Public Works Director  
Carvy Snell – Metter Advertiser

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present and those participating by phone.

**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 as presented. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Regular Meeting, May 11, 2020

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- a) Pre-Budget Workshop, Thursday, February 25, 2020
- b) Regular Meeting, Monday, March 9, 2020
- c) Called Meeting, Monday, March 23, 2020
- d) Called Meeting, Monday, March 24, 2020
- e) Called Meeting, Monday April 20, 2020

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

The regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday; April 13, 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to set a public hearing on June 8, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. for public input regarding an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, “Adding the Definition of a Flea Market to Appendix A Article II, Section 2.25a 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)”. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Ordinance Amendment to Allow for Flea Markets**

First reading of an amendment to the City of Metter Municipal Code of Ordinances Title 5 Business Licenses and Regulations to include Chapter 5.30 Flea Market, outlining operational guidelines, was read aloud.

### **Application for Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance submitted by Danny Olliff and Dale Fordham**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to set a public hearing on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for public input regarding an application for Amendment to the Metter Zoning Ordinance submitted by Dale Fordham and Danny Olliff to rezone 10.5 acres of Parcel M2 1004 from R-3 One and Two Family Residential to R-4 Multiple-Unit Residential. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**FY 2021 Public Hearing**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to set a public hearing on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for public input on the proposed FY 2021 City of Metter budget. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Alcohol Beverage License Application**

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve an application submitted by Shashikant H. Patel for retail alcohol beverage license for off premise consumption of beer and wine at Ayan Trading, Inc. dba Metter Convenience Mart located at 55 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Metter, GA. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Resolution Surplus Property**

Councilman Sikes made a motion to approve a Resolution declaring the following property of the City as surplus and authorizing its disposal and that the HR/Purchasing Manager is hereby authorized to have said surplus property advertised in the legal organ of Candler County, the Metter Advertiser, and placed on the Govdeal.com website for this disposal:

- A 2000 Chevrolet C1500 pickup, VIN. 1GCEC4TXYE260475, that was assigned to the Sanitation Department. Mileage is 148,542.
- A 2004 Freightliner M2106 dump truck, VIN # 1FVACUCS24HM48666, that was assigned to the Sanitation department. The cost to repair exceeds the value of the vehicle.
- A 2002 Chevrolet 2500HD pickup, VIN # 1GBHC24U127255424, that was assigned to the Water Department. Mileage is 148,373.
- A 2014 Old Dominion Leaf Vacuum, VIN # 1Z9PL112ER18085, that was assigned to the Street and Lane Department. It has 296.1 hours. This equipment is no longer in use.
- A 2003 Husqvarna riding mower, VIN # 090712A004069, that was assigned to the Wastewater Department. It has 984 hours and is scheduled to be replaced.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Due to the time constraint with teleconferencing the meeting, City Council were informed that the departmental written reports were placed in the agenda packet for their review and if they had any questions, they could contact the department head later.

**City Manager's Report**

Mr. Crawford presented mayor and council with a copy of the FY 2021 draft budget. The general fund is balanced with not tax increases or rate increases. The sanitation fund is balanced with \$15,062 to the good. The water and sewer fund is balanced with \$198,440

Regular Meeting, May 11, 2020

to the good. The hotel motel tax fund is balanced with \$768 to the good. Mr. Crawford thanked all the department heads for their hard work on the proposed FY 2021 budget.

Mr. Crawford presented mayor and council with the following FY 2021 budget calendar:

- Monday, May 18, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at Pineland Telephone Community Room (Administration, Public Works, Economic Development, Hotel Motel, Welcome Center, and Library)
- Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall (Public Safety, and Other Entities)
- Monday, June 1, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall (Sanitation and Utilities)
- Public Hearing, Monday, June 15, 2020, 5:00 p.m. at City Hall
- Called Meeting, Budget Adoption, Monday, June 22, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Crawford and the Department Heads for all the hard work on the proposed FY 2021 budget. He also thanked them for presenting a balanced budget.

Mayor Boyd expressed his appreciation to Mr. Crawford and all city staff for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were able to serve the public without missing a beat. He thanked council for attending the meeting onsite at city hall. The tables and chairs were spaced 6 feet apart to meet guidelines. The meeting is being provided to the public by teleconference.

Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Pernal Franklin for allowing the Woodpecker Trail Board to have a sign placed on the side of his building located at the corner of North Broad Street and North Lewis Street.

### **Payment Plan for Utility Bills during COVID-19**

Councilwoman Kilcrease asked Mayor Boyd to address an email that he had sent out to council concerning businesses wanting fees suspended for the months they were required to be closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Boyd explained that he had received phone calls from a couple of business owners asking if the city was going to charge them for services for the months that they were required to close. Councilwoman Taylor explained that there is a grant available through the Small Business Association offered to businesses to help with the relief of having to close. She said it is called Payroll Protection Plan. It helps with utility payments and payroll expenses. We need to urge them to apply for this grant. Mayor Boyd said that we need to get this information to these folks. Councilwoman Kilcrease commented that if they cannot get the grant then we need to look at waiving late fees. Councilman Sikes agreed, we need to be a little lenient.

Councilwoman Harrelson explained that Pineland Telephone has come up with an extended payment plan. She said that they advised a system so that they can catch up

their bills. A lot of them did not get responses from the Payroll Protection Plan and unemployment. She said that it is not reasonable to expect them to pay their normal bills with no money coming in. They need extended time to pay. We can also look at waiving the late fees. Councilwoman Harrelson suggested that the city create a 90-day payment plan and have the customers to sign an agreement. Mr. Crawford said that staff has talked about giving people 3 months to catch up and giving residential customers the same opportunity. Mayor Boyd suggested allowing the City Manager to work with businesses and individuals on an individual basis to work out a 90-day payment plan and suggest ways that they can save on water usage. Councilwoman Kilcrease said that their arrears need to be brought forward and they need to pay their current monthly bills. She agreed that council needs to give Mr. Crawford the authority to advise a plan.

Councilwoman Harrelson commented that we need to do this on an individual basis. We need to work out a payment plan with whatever business contacts us and not across the board. Mr. Crawford said that the residential needs to be done on a case by case basis also. Mayor Boyd agreed that we need to work with individuals on an individual basis to work out a payment plan. Councilwoman Taylor asked if individuals have been asking for the same thing. Mayor Boyd said, not to his knowledge but he has heard that there is a long list of individuals not paying their bills and they might need some help. Council will need to decide if they want this to just apply to businesses or also residential.

Councilwoman Taylor wanted to know if the residents were paying any on the bill at all. Mr. Crawford said that there are several who have not paid for a couple of months. Councilwoman Taylor said that they need to pay something.

Mr. Crawford said that we can put together a 90-day plan to get them caught up. They will need to pay their normal bill each month plus on the arrears. Councilwoman Taylor agreed. Councilwoman Harrelson and Councilwoman Taylor suggested giving them a sheet of facts on how to save water. Mayor Boyd said that we need to give management the flexibility to deal with these bills. Councilwoman Taylor said that we need to be fair across the board because we do not want to be impartial to some. Mayor said that we cannot be impartial.

Councilwoman Kilcrease suggested that we leave this up to Mr. Crawford on how to handle the individuals extension plan if he chooses to do so but she thinks anyone in arrears needs to be brought forward as well as by adding those fees into their current bill and advise some kind of plan to be paid off in a couple of months.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion for City Manager Carter Crawford to advise a plan and work with each individual or residential person and or businesses for the payment of their utility bills. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Regular Meeting, May 11, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

After no further business, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

---

Angie Conner, City Clerk