

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

A regular meeting was held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Metter Police Department located at 805 E. Lillian St.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Edwin O. Boyd
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman Paul MacGregor
Councilwoman Amy Harrelson
Councilman Brandon Sikes
Councilwoman Rashida Taylor
City Manager Carter Crawford
City Clerk Angie Conner
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Director of Tourism/Business Development Heidi Jeffers
Carvy Snell – Metter Advertiser

Guests:

Jason Grimes – President – Chamber of Commerce
Bryan Aasheim – Candler County Administrator (by teleconference)

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order, called roll, and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman MacGregor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Kilcrease 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the following meetings:

- a) Public Hearing, Monday July 20, 2020
- b) Regular Meeting, Monday, July 20, 2020

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

PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Projects Update

Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix gave an update on the current public works projects.

2018 TIA PROJECT (S. WILLIAMS ST., BURTON AVENUE AND S. KENNEDY ST., Project Budget- \$ 612,447.05)

1. Paving is complete on all three streets-cost \$319,358.86
2. New water lines and laterals installed on Burton Avenue and part of S. Williams St. New water laterals installed on S. Kennedy St.-cost \$206,097.27.
3. New sewer line installed on part of S. Williams St.-cost \$51,869.12.
4. Total spent to date- \$519,592.73
5. Projected completion date is August 28, 2020.

Items on the punch list for this project:

Burton Ave.

- Remove traffic barrels from throughout the project.
- Stripping.
- Install concrete water valve cover collar.
- Patch utility crossing on Franklin Dr.
- Remove excess stone from shoulder on Burton Ave at Franklin Dr.
- Raise manhole.

South Williams St. (South)

- Holding water at Neal St. (East side). Did not pave to the back of the radius as noted in plans. Paving to the back of the radius will allow water to sheet flow through intersection.
- Adjust water valve boxes and lids to grade at Neal St.
- Stripping.

South Williams St. (North)

- Replace speed limit sign at Broad St. entrance.
- Remove and replace stop sign and post at W. Vertia St.
- Stripping.

South Kennedy St.

- Raise manhole opposite side of courthouse.
- Repair pavement at #423. Pavement settled. (Marked with white paint in pavement.)
- Manhole paved over 100' south of W. Vertia St. (Marked with white paint in pavement.)
- Dress and grass around jump water meter box in median between Vertia St. and Pine St.
- Stripping.

2019 TIA PROJECT (S. ROUNTREE ST., ELLIS ST., BOSTON ST., MINCEY ST., HUEITT ST., SMITH ST., AND GREEN ST., Project Budget- \$ 738,133.08)

1. Paving is complete on all streets except Green St. and driveway aprons on all streets-cost \$ 444,708.76
2. New water line installed on part of S. Rountree St. and new water laterals installed on all areas of S. Rountree St.- cost \$ 115,513.85.
3. Drainage improvements complete on Ellis St.-cost \$ 9,067.10.
4. Total spent to date- \$ 569,289.71
5. Projected completion date is August 28, 2020.

Items on the punch list for this project:

Rountree Street

- Adjust fire hydrant height at Vertia and Kennedy Street.
- Dress radius corner at Vertia Street.
- Dress and grass shoulders throughout project.
- Pave back asphalt strip adjacent to church parking lot.
- Pour back sidewalk areas.
- Stripping.

Green Street

- Install roll over curb at 800 E. Lillian Street as per plans.
- Backfill curb and gutter throughout the project.
- Remove construction debris from the right of way.
- Cut off top of culvert headwall parapet flush with curb and gutter.
- Remove concrete forms from curb and gutter on E. Lillian Street end of project.
- Remove newly developed vegetation from the roadway between the curb and gutter and existing pavement.
- Paving.
- Stripping.

Ellis, Boston, Mincey, Smith, and Huiett St.:

- Install paved driveway aprons.

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- Backfill shoulders and haul off excessive shoulder material.
- Install driveway on last house on right on Smith Street.
- Clean out driveway culverts to provide positive drainage.
- Backfill driveway pipe at #710 Ellis Street.
- Adjust manholes throughout subdivision to pavement height.
- Install concrete header curb on Huiett and Smith St.

2019 LMIG PROJECT (PLAN TO START SEPTEMBER 8, 2020-S. COLLEGE ST.)

Items for construction:

1. Water line replacement-cost \$ 64,519.20.
2. Sewer line replacement-cost \$ 76,025.30.
3. Resurfacing of College St.-cost \$ 96,870.71

2020 LMIG PROJECT (PLAN TO START MID-SEPTEMBER-FORTNER ROAD)

1. Resurfacing only-cost \$80,927.72.

Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Hendrix for the updates and said he is glad to see these projects moving forward.

Updates on the S. Terrell St. Incubator Project and Welcome Center Renovation Project by Heidi Jeffers, Director of Tourism and Business Development

S. Terrell St. Incubator Project

- We are at 80% of the grant for the S. Terrell St. Incubator building project.
- We are working on the punch list.
- Project should be complete by mid-September.
- GSU should be in the building in September.
- There are 7 other businesses ready to come in.

Councilwoman Taylor commented on how good it looks and how the signage stands out. Mayor Boyd agreed.

Welcome Center Renovation Project

- Interior demolition has begun.
- In the process now of putting the cabinets back in.
- Project should be complete by the end of October or first of November.

Councilwoman Taylor asked about the employees and what they are doing now since the Welcome Center is closed and how are they paid? Ms. Jeffers said that there are two part

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time employees. Ms. Wanda Spears has been helping with different things. Both employees have been paid since the closure for COVID-19.

Mayor Boyd praised Ms. Jeffers for getting together the free labor from the prison and the financing through the OneGeorgia Grant. Mayor Boyd said that he is glad to see these projects moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Millage Rate – Public Hearing – Called Meeting

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. for public comment on the proposed millage rate with a called meeting immediately following to adopt the millage rate. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution – Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a Resolution to authorize the execution of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) terms and conditions agreement; to authorize the acceptance of grant payments, including all understandings and assurances contained within such agreement; to direct and authorize the person identified as the official representative of the City, or the designee of the city to act in connection with the grant application; and to provide such additional information as may be required. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Candler County Request for Reimbursement

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve a request from the Candler County Board of Commissioners for reimbursement of half of the FY 19 Fire Operations and Maintenance positive variance reported in the audit. (Total positive variance \$61,776 – their request \$30,888). Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Events in Downtown Park

The next item on the agenda was to consider allowing the following events in the city downtown park:

- a) Harvest and Arts Festival – sometime in October
- b) Food Truck Festival – sometime in November

Jason Grimes, President of the Chamber of Commerce, informed council that he would like to know if city council plans to allow functions in the park due to COVID-19. He said that he has a meeting with the Harvest Festival Committee next week to see if they are interested in having the event. The Chamber is interested in having the Food Truck

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Festival on November 7th. He said that he would like to know where council stands on this before planning these events.

Councilwoman Kilcrease said she has concerns over COVID-19. She asked Mr. Grimes how he plans to handle that. She said that some people do not even want to wear face masks. Councilwoman Kilcrease said that she is very concerned since the Candler County cases are rising. This will be putting people at risk.

Mr. Grimes said that they could suggest that people wear masks and could place hand sanitizing stations throughout the park. We could also require vendors to have hand sanitizers. The food trucks would have to follow the state guidelines.

Councilwoman Taylor commented that we need to check with our City Attorney Brent Carter to find out the liabilities.

Councilman Sikes suggested that we spread it out. Mr. Grimes said that he could use the Central and West Park. Mr. Grimes said that he is concerned with the arts part of the festival for the kids. If the City is good with allowing the festival in the park, then Mr. Grimes said he would bring up the issue to the Harvest Committee.

Councilwoman Taylor said that she has mixed emotions and would like to see what our attorney says. She said that we cannot live in fear, but we must be wise. Mayor Boyd asked City Manager Carter Crawford to contact the City Attorney Brent Carter to find out the liabilities and then get back with Mr. Grimes.

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to table this issue until we get legal advice from the City Attorney Brent Carter. Councilwoman Harrelson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Due to time constraint with teleconferencing the meeting, the departmental written reports were placed in the agenda packet for council's review.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Crawford reported on the following:

- Staff is putting together an updated Capital Improvement Plan.
- We are having to reduce some of the items in the 2018 SPLOST Fund because at the end of the term there will not be enough revenue to pay for them.
- We have received \$61,000 from the CARES Grant to cover personnel costs, sick leave, health insurance and other benefits during the pandemic.
- FEMA will cover the glass window that was installed in the lobby. It will pay for putting a doorway in the lobby, disinfecting the building and the fogger that was purchased by the Fire Department. There is no date from GEMA yet to apply.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Boyd reported the following:

- Thanked Heidi and Cliff for the project updates.
- Appreciates the efforts of streets and lanes for hitting the streets in this heat.
- He encouraged citizens to wear masks when in the public when social distancing is not possible due to COVID-19. Please wear masks in stores. We are in the red zone. We also need to be mindful and keep our hands washed. Please be careful out there in the public.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Councilman Sikes seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Angie Conner, City Clerk