

**CITY OF METTER
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

A called meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 6:00 p. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Billy Trapnell
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman Ed Boyd
Councilwoman Marsha Colson
Councilman Paul MacGregor
Interim City Manager Carter Crawford
City Clerk Angie Conner
Deputy Clerk Cindy Collins
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Chief of Police Mack Seckinger
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

PURPOSE

The purpose of the budget workshop was to get council's input on what their goals are for the upcoming budget year.

Mr. Crawford informed mayor and council that he had looked at the City of Metter Pay Scale at one of the council member's request. He compared the City Manager, Police Chief and Laborer positions to the DCA salary survey with cities our size. Overall it looks like they are pretty much in line with other cities and maybe a little on the high side.

Mr. Crawford informed the council of some revenue reductions that we will have to consider when calculating the budget. The property tax digest is down along with SPLOST and franchise fees. We will also have to deal with increases in expenditures such as workers compensation insurance, liability insurance, health insurance, etc.

Councilwoman Colson said she would like for the city to evaluate the shared services and what is the value and compare to other cities our size. Councilman Boyd said this is part of House Bill 489.

Councilman MacGregor said he would like to see a cover sheet showing where we are budget wise each month. Councilwoman Colson said she would like to have a monthly spreadsheet on the SPLOST accounts.

Councilman Boyd had several issues he would like for the city to consider when preparing the budget for this year and future years:

1. Continue to work on sewer rehab projects.
2. Purchase a boom truck (purchase through SPLOST)
3. Work with county and Archway to obtain a CDBG grant to correct the flooding issues on Portal and Stillmore Roads.
4. Work with County on a new Animal Shelter.
5. Finish Archway Jaycee Park project. We need to support Archway and the design students by finishing the project.
6. Signage –SPLOST item (\$100,000).
7. Move \$100,000 back to the SPLOST that was charged to the Fire Department when we purchased the public works building with the intention of also locating the fire department on that property.

8. Look at getting some apartment units. One good location is Hiawatha Street. We need to pave Hiawatha Street from Claxton Highway at least to the culvert.
9. Look at requesting to renegotiate House Bill 489.
10. Study the pros and cons of having the work detail especially since they are tearing up equipment. We need to find out if it is cost efficient.
11. Look at a fee based garbage collection. We could also change the garbage collection to an enterprise fund.
12. Look at road repair options.
13. Revisit traffic light operations. Stay on DOT.
14. Look for money to start landscaping the medians. The azaleas are too tall. Archway drew up some great plans. We need to work toward utilizing them. We also need to look at irrigation for the plants.
15. Mandate tree board members to attend training paid for by the city.
16. More striping on our streets.
17. Run the street sweeper on the core parts of downtown.
18. Sidewalks at least to the city limits on South Leroy Street for children walking to school. Also need fence up on the I-16 overpass. We also need bicycle lanes. This area is not kid friendly.
19. Purchase speed signs that will tell people how fast they are going.
20. Software updates for administration.
21. New chairs for mayor and city council.

Mr. Crawford said we need to work on a 5 and 10 year plan and prioritize.

Chief Douglas reminded mayor and council that the fire department still needs somewhere to put the training units. He said that we are also three years past on replacing a fire truck. He said the cost for the fire truck would be approximately \$350,000.00 and it would take one year to build it.

Chief Seckinger said he would like to purchase two new police cars which will run about \$40,000.00 each. It is also time to replace the bullet proof vests. We will need 8 to 10 vests. We also need some new car cameras.

Mr. Hendrix said he is looking at replacing the animal control vehicle. Also, we will need to continue with sewer line replacements. We will also be looking at dirt roads that need to be paved and also streets that need to be paved. We will look at replacing lines before paving.

Council agreed that they would like to see updated software for the administrative department.

This meeting was a workshop only and no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk

William M. Trapnell, Mayor