

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, April 11, 2016, at 7:00 p. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

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

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Mandi Cody
Laura Vine
Matt Gast
William George
Delores Hagins
Members of the NAACP
Caleb Stillinger

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Trapnell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilman MacGregor gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Colson made a motion to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting – March 14, 2016

Called Meeting – March 22, 2016

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

GUEST RECONITIONS

Matt Gast

Mr. Gast was present at the work session, prior to the regular meeting, to request permission from the mayor and council to fly small foam airplanes inside the old gymnasium of the former Metter Elementary School. The planes measure less than forty (40) inches in wing span and weigh less than 1.5 pounds. These are slow flying planes due to their weight. They are not likely to do any damage. Mr. Gast stated that if granted permission, he would take advantage of this no more than twice a month and probably only on Sundays.

Mayor Trapnell stated that he would like to see the city get in the building first. He said that we would also need to come up with some guidelines. Councilman Boyd agreed with Mayor Trapnell. He also said that we would need to check on what kind of insurance we might need on the property to allow this kind of activity. Councilman MacGregor said that we need at least a couple of months to get in there. Councilwoman Kilcrease said that we need to set some guidelines on how to use that property. Councilman Boyd agreed. Councilman Boyd told Mr. Gast that he didn't want to categorically say in the future that you won't be able to use it but at this point we need to get in there first.

William George

Mr. George, representing the NAACP was present at the work session to discuss traffic problems at the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade this year. He said that he asked the parade participants to stay about three car lengths apart but one of them was about fifteen cars apart and regular traffic was directed to proceed between them by the police. This is a safety issue. He said that there was one person who almost got ran over. Mr. George said that they did not have any problems when Captain Walker was in charge.

Ms. Hagins stated that the streets were not blocked and there were no officers at some of the intersections. Ms. Hagins said that she was almost hit by a truck crossing at the BB&T bank. Traffic was also moving at some of the other intersections. She said that the Fire Department helped at some of the intersections. Ms. Hagins said she thought it was very embarrassing and disrespectful especially since one of the council members was the Grand Marshal.

Chief Seckinger said that the intersections were covered by police and fire. There was such a gap in-between cars that the officer did let some traffic through. Mr. George said that it is not safe. Mayor Trapnell agreed and said that next year the city will try to do a better job. Mayor Trapnell said that the police are primarily focused on other things but we will try to do a better job next year.

Vacancies on the Planning Commissioner and Zoning Appeals Board

During the work session, Mayor Trapnell informed council that there are three vacancies on the Zoning Appeals Board and one on the Planning Commission. Mayor Trapnell asked the council to be thinking about replacements for these vacancies. He informed council that Mrs. Laura Vines has sent a letter, along with her resume, requesting to be a member of the Planning Commission.

Request to Use the Pavilion on the Police Department Campus

During the work session, Mayor Trapnell informed council that he had received a request from Mr. Grady McCray to allow their church, Mt. Pisgah on Lillian Street, to use the pavilion on the far side of the campus of the Police Department for a cookout. Mayor Trapnell advised Mr. McCray that we have not been asked that before and not sure if we were going to do that or not. He said it seems like a good idea for church group to use it rather than it just sitting there. Mr. McCray said he would clean it up before they used it. Mayor Trapnell said that we already have park regulations that could be modified for that park. Chief Seckinger said he did not have a problem with them using it but it definitely

needs to be cleaned up. Council was receptive of the park regulations being modified for the use of the pavilion and to allow Mt. Pisgah to use it.

GMA “Cities in Play”

During the work session, Mayor Trapnell advised the council that the theme for GMA’s 2016 Annual Convention is “Cities in Play”. To compliment this year’s theme, GMA would like to highlight city projects/initiatives that use play, parks, recreation and other activities as a tool for community and economic development, community health and happiness (quality-of-life), or community engagement. The selected initiatives will be highlighted on pop-up banners that will be displayed in the Annual Convention registration area. Mayor Trapnell said that Catherine Muse, Archway Professional, came up with some concepts that we might be able to use. We need to find someone to lead this project. Mayor Trapnell said that he has contacted the Chamber but has not heard back from them at this time. Council agreed to put together an application.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

City Manager Contract

Mayor Trapnell stated that one of the council members questioned whether or not that Ms. Cody would receive the same salary increases (merit and/or COLA) as the other employees in July of this year because it is in her contract that she will receive the same benefits relative to the other employees. Mayor Trapnell said that he talked with Ms. Cody and she is not expecting an increase in July of this year. He said that we can change this in the contract if necessary. Ms. Cody stated that the issue raised by one of the council members was the question as to whether I would be awarded the same cost of living increases or salary increases come July with the fiscal year as the rest of the staff would be entitled to this year and as I said to the mayor, I think that would be an unreasonable expectation on my part. She said that staff has been working and I have not. I will be coming in fresh in May, so I would not expect any increase COLA, salary or otherwise in July of this year. Ms. Cody said that we can certainly clarify that in the contract or just notify it in the minutes, however you all feel most comfortable handling it. A motion was made by Councilwoman Kilcrease to approve a two (2) year contract with Ms. Mandi Cody to serve as City Manager of the City of Metter beginning May 2, 2016. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Executive Session

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

After the discussion was complete, Councilman MacGregor made a motion to close the executive session and reopen the meeting. Councilwoman Kilcrease seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Carvy Snell, representing the Metter Advertiser, went on record objecting to the legality of having a third party present (Chief Mack Seckinger) in the executive session. He advised council to check with the city attorney.

MAYOR’S REPORT

No report.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager’s Report

Mr. Crawford reminded council of the budget workshop following the council meeting.

Police Department Report

Chief Seckinger submitted a written report.

Public Works Report

Mr. Hendrix submitted a written report. He also reported that two bids were received on the streetscape project. One bid was from Y-Delta in the amount of \$498,000 and the other was from Lavender & Associates in the amount of \$501,000. Mr. Hendrix said he would bring this back before council with a recommendation at a later date.

Councilman MacGregor said that we have received complaints about the grass at the entrances of Metter. He asked Mr. Hendrix what he thought about contracting out some of this work. He also wanted to know if the city would have to take bids for this service. Mr. Hendrix said that he has the grass cut around the entrances on Hwy 121 and 129 weekly. He told Councilman MacGregor that he would look into contracting it out and get some prices to see if the city can afford it. Mayor Trapnell asked Mr. Hendrix if he is spraying the Bahia grass. Mr. Hendrix said that streets and lanes have been spraying. Councilman Thomas said that it might be a good idea to contract out the some of the grass cutting. The city would not have to pay benefits and such. Councilman Thomas said that it looks terrible around here. Mr. Hendrix informed council that he is short staffed at the present time. One employee is out on medical leave and the other is out on workers' compensation. Mr. Hendrix informed council that the money is not in the budget for this but he would look into contracting out some of the grass cutting.

Classic Main Street Report

Mrs. Jaime Riggs was not present at the meeting. She was in Athens, Georgia accepting an award for the Lynda Williamson Leadership Foundation.

Fire Department Report

Chief Douglas submitted a written report.

Administration Report

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to adjourn the meeting and begin the budget workshop. Councilwoman Colson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk

William M. Trapnell, Mayor