

**CITY OF METTER
CALLED MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016
10:00 A.M.**

A called meeting was held at City Hall on Friday, October 21, 2016 at 10:00 a. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Billy Trapnell
Councilwoman Chyrileen Kilcrease
Councilman Ed Boyd
Councilman Gregory Thomas
Councilwoman Marsha Colson
City Manager Mandi Cody
City Clerk Angie Conner
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Councilman MacGregor was absent from the meeting.

No guest attended this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Trapnell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Colson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Kilcrease gave the invocation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the 2016 Metter Candler County Archway Partnership Retreat and develop a strategic work plan and to allow for an executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation and/or personnel.

Announcement of Federal Funding – Hurricane Matthew

Chief Douglas announced that Metter and Candler County have been approved for federal reimbursement for categories A-G for Hurricane Matthew. The two major things that the city will get reimbursed for is the roof at the old police department and the sewage spill caused by a faulty generator. The county is looking at reimbursement for repairing asphalt on the old walking trail at the Recreation Department and road repairs on Griffin Ferry Road and Mt. Olive Road. Ms. Cody said that the generator can be repaired but we are looking at replacing it due to the age of it. Chief Douglas said that we got approved for debris clean-up, buildings and equipment, emergency protective measures, utilities, roads and bridges, parks and recreation, and water control facilities. Mayor and Council thanked Chief Douglas and the rest of the staff for getting all necessary information together to submit to Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). Joe Carter, Missy Edenfield and Cindy Collins make up the team putting all this information together. Under Chief Douglas's guidance, they prepared all the necessary paperwork and forms. Ms. Cody stated that FEMA was amazed at the work they presented at the meeting. Chief Douglas said that we had to prove that we met the threshold. There was not enough damage in the county to meet the individual assistance. Chief Douglas said that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will come in

and evaluate the farm damages. Mayor Trapnell thanked Chief Douglas and the team for a great job.

Archway

Ms. Cody presented mayor and council with a package for the Archway retreat next week. She asked council to consider these issues so when we come together with our Archway partners on Wednesday, then we will have a focus on what goals and work plans we feel like Archway will be beneficial to us and how we can get the most out of this partnership. Last year's work plan dealt with economic development, recreational activities, community image, health care and education. At the retreat we will review where we are on these particular goals and discuss whether to retain these goals or tweak and revise them in some way or delete any of them from our strategic work plan, or add additional areas to the work plan. Ms. Cody said she would like for council to go over what we have been pleased with through the partnership and what we would like to see more of moving forward.

Councilman Boyd stated that someone needs to look at the Jaycee Park area, where we have added property, to see if that changes the dynamics of how all that might work together. There is a lot of space between what was planned and the community house. Councilman Boyd said the whole area needs to look good and contiguous together. The idea was having low maintenance islands in the city. We may not be able to afford it. We may need to hire an outside contractor to do some of it. There are plans somewhere.

Councilman Boyd stated that they also did a plan for Caney Branch. We need to have them in front of us so we can keep them in our focus and know where we have been and what we got going on that we want to do. We may need to prioritize. We need to figure out some way we can work on them.

Councilman Boyd said that another thing he would like to see is video surveillance for the police department and have it where someone can see what's going on in real time in public places and alleys. That would allow us to go back and check video. It could be a deterrent once people find out that we have it. Councilman Boyd said that in the past there has been a correlation between lighting at night and crime. One of our largest ongoing expenses is our relationship with Georgia Power. We need to take a proactive look and have a plan to retrofit our lighting to LED and try to cut the power bill.

Mayor Trapnell stated that he has been in a meeting with Georgia Power where there was discussion about LED lighting. They are in the process of transitioning to LED street lights. Mayor Trapnell said that from what he heard it doesn't reduce your rate because of the cost of the LED fixtures and doing the change. Maybe later on, it might. The one place it would help us is out at the interchange. Those are our lights and, if we change, we are on a meter out there. We need to look at this.

Councilwoman Colson said that we need signs as you come over the I-16 overpass that say Downtown Metter 1.3 miles so people will know. We need something attractive so that it might lead more people to town. This could increase revenue from the interstate. If it were an overhead sign it might draw more eyes to it.

Ms. Cody asked the mayor and council if they thought the city could get business owners to agree to a partnership where we could get some signage for directional, ingress, egress signage there at the exchange with the franchise name and an arrow and maybe the other part of the sign could have the city logo. That way when you come off the interstate you would know you are in Metter. This would make it look different than the other stops along the interstate. Councilwoman Colson said that even the small business owners would see that as a good investment. Ms. Cody said that we need some kind of branding and directional way finding signage that marks our exchange as unique to us and identifies Metter. That would be a good economic development goal for us to discuss on Wednesday.

Councilman Boyd said that it might be where we could work with the Mighty Eight and or Warner Robbins Airforce Museum and have them set up an esthetic display at our

welcome center area to advertise their facility. That kind of stuff is pretty eye catching. It might attract more people to get off the interstate to take a look. It would also be doing a service for those other facilities.

Mr. Snell stated that the directional signs (but not exactly what you are talking about) are in Phase II of the committee. That committee is kind of already in place but it would be great to revisit that issue if funding is available. He said the other thing he is confused about Archway is where it stops. He said he thinks he has clarification that on the projects that Councilman Boyd mentioned that were done for the city are now off the Archway Partnership list. Those projects are now for the city to prioritize and talk about funding. He said he set down with Catherine Muse, Archway Professional, and other board members and said we are doing all this and we have no means of funding it. Mr. Snell said that bothers him. They said that Archway would help facilitate and give guidance in funding but that's not what they do. What the University of Georgia (UGA) wants are their students to get real life experiences. So to say we need to stop dreaming and thinking of things is the wrong tactic. He said he was thinking why we are doing all this if we are not going to be able to fund it. Maybe we will just have to shelf some of them until funding becomes available. Mr. Snell said we will probably find at the retreat that they are going to say we have engineering students that need something to do. It is a two way street. Mayor Trapnell said that when transitions come with elected officials or with employees, we don't want to have those things shelved and totally forgotten. We need some way of displaying it.

Ms. Cody said that she is new to Archway but her initial thought was to take these projects and incorporate them into our comprehensive plan. Next year we will be working on our land use comp plan. Ms. Cody said she is not a fan of having a comprehensive plan that just meets the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) rules. It is really more of a zoning and land use plan.

Councilman Boyd said that the city's solid waste capacity could be running short. One big industry might could put us under some stress. That would be a great project for an engineering student at UGA. They could look at all the different ways to handle all of that. We will probably have to address this problem within the next ten (10) years. Ms. Cody said that is the kind of project that could work. It could dovetail into grant applications. The Economic Development Administration gives grants for wastewater treatment facilities and things of that nature. We could get some fundamental research done with Archway Partnership and feed into a grant application.

Mayor Trapnell said another thing Archway has done is the preliminary behind Days Inn. That is where they planned the drainage and water-sewer infrastructure and roads. It is ready for further consideration.

Mayor Trapnell said that it looks like this group has come up with some good ideas.

Councilman Boyd questioned if Archway could help to come up with a road map or locate fire stations and what resources need to be where. The idea of having one grand station in the middle of Metter is not the only option. It might be that we could cover more of our citizens just as well by having some lesser physical stations but placing equipment where ISO won't penalize us. He said he is not exactly sure how all that would work. There might be a way to use our resources to get better coverage. The county citizens would probably appreciate that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation and/or personnel. Councilwoman Colson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

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

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ADJOURNMENT

After no further discussion, Councilman Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Colson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk

William M. Trapnell, Mayor