

**CITY OF METTER  
CALLED MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2017  
5:30 P.M.**

A called meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, June 20, 2017 at 5:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers.

Attending the meeting were the following officials:

Mayor Billy Trapnell  
Councilman Ed Boyd  
Councilman Gregory Thomas  
Councilwoman Marsha Colson  
Councilman Paul MacGregor  
City Manager Mandi Cody  
City Clerk Angie Conner  
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix  
Chief of Police Mack Seckinger  
Fire Chief Jason Douglas  
Finance Manager Cindy Collins  
City Attorney Brent Carter  
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

Attending the meeting were the following guests:

Sherriff John Miles  
Brian Tootle – Industrial Authority  
Justin Wells – Candler County Sherriff's Office  
Glyn Thrift – Chairman, Candler County Commissioners  
Dennis Allen – Representing the Bridge  
Brad Jones – Candler County Commissioners  
Molly Olson – Industrial Authority Director

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Mayor Trapnell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman MacGregor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Councilwoman Colson gave the invocation.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this meeting was for the following:

1. Council discussion regarding the proposed FY 2018 budget.
  - (a) Requested funding levels for the Candler County Industrial Authority.
  - (b) Requested funding levels for the Candler County Airport.
  - (c) Request for reconsideration of proposed funding levels for The Bridge.
  - (d) Any other funding considerations for FY 2018.
2. Update by City Manager regarding SPLOST 2018 anticipated funding levels.
3. Presentation by Sherriff John Miles.
4. Executive Session- proposed or pending litigation and/or personnel issues.

**Funding Levels for the Candler County Industrial Authority**

Ms. Cody informed the council that she needs a consensus from them on the Industrial Authority request. Mayor Trapnell asked council if they wanted to change from the \$75,000 requested by the Industrial Authority for FY 2018. Councilman MacGregor said that he did not understand it changing to \$75,000 from the \$25,000 discussed at an earlier budget meeting. He said that council talked about one thing and then it was changed with an increase in 1 mil to support the change. Councilman MacGregor said he didn't understand the change since we couldn't meet the budget before that increase. He asked if the Industrial Authority could collect some kind of fee. Councilman MacGregor said that he couldn't vote to increase taxes for the Industrial Authority.

Ms. Cody agreed that the budget was out at the first budget meeting. At the next meeting council voted to increase the Industrial Authority to \$75,000. Before this we were out of balance and talked about a 3% mil increase. The direction from council was to increase the mil to 4% to allow for the Industrial Authority request. Councilman MacGregor said that he knows we need it but can't vote for it.

City Attorney Brent Carter said that the Industrial Authority can't tax for a mil. It does not say that we can in our legislation. Mayor Trapnell said that he hates to see the city tax payers take the full burden. Ms. Cody said that Economic Development should be one of our main concerns. It is very important. She recommended continuing the \$25,000 support and getting some experts to help guide them in their needs. We need expert decisions as we move forward.

Councilman Boyd said that one thing people are looking at is how our community is working together right now. We are not working well at all. He said that the city may have to delay its participation with the Industrial Authority. We have other entities competing for money too. He said that adding \$50,000 to the FY 2018 budget might be reaching too far. Several years ago the county increased the millage rate a lot at one time

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and it was really painful. Councilman Boyd recommended looking at all the needs before making a decision.

Councilman Thomas said that he is unchanged on his position. We are way beyond having an increase. He said that council shouldn't fear the election and seats. This is a big task and someone needs to do it. He said that his seat is one of the seats up for election.

Councilwoman Colson said that we are naïve to think we can go forward without some form of tax increase. People are expecting more and more services. She said that we can't shrink our way to greatness. We need a tax increase.

Councilman MacGregor said he agrees that we need a tax increase but is not voting for a 50% tax increase. There is no question that we need it.

Ms. Cody said that the city has dipped into fund balance at least 1 mil the last 4 out of 5 years. She said that she is not overly concerned about fund balance for FY 2017 if we stay in the current condition.

### **Funding Levels for the Metter/Candler County Airport**

The request from the Airport Authority went up from \$18,000 to \$32,000 annually. At the other budget meeting council directed to leave the airport at the 2017 funding level (\$18,000). The Airport Authority is asking for the additional money for a Jet Fuel System. The city is to pay for part of this and the county. Commissioner Jones had previously talked to Ms. Cody about this project but Ms. Cody didn't realize that the city funding had been promised.

Mr. Hendrix explained that the Airport budget request includes money for two capital items: Jet A Fuel System and an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS). The cost of the Jet A Fuel System is around \$250,000 to \$260,000. This will be purchased through a grant with the local match to the Airport Authority of \$25,000. The cost for AWOS is \$30,000 which can be purchased through a grant with a local match to the Airport Authority of \$6,500.

Mr. Billy Crider will be storing a jet plane at the airport. He is bearing expenses for the hangar at no cost to the city or county. We will see tax revenue off of the jet and the hangar. The local match for the Airport Authority was included in the FY 2018 budget request. The Airport Authority doesn't want to borrow money unless they have too.

Commissioner Jones said that it was brought to his attention 3 or 4 months ago that Mr. Crider would be buying a jet airplane and building a hangar for it. It is a \$3,000,000 jet. Our community will receive the 8% sales tax from this purchase. He said that he talked with Councilman Boyd, Councilwoman Colson, and Ms. Cody about this project. The plane will be titled in Candler County. Mr. Crider debated over Candler County and Emanuel County.

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Mr. Hendrix said that the grant for the Jet A Fuel System is 5% state, 5% local, and 90% federal. The grant application has been submitted to FFA. Ms. Cody said that she calculated the figures and this will be a \$94,000 benefit to the city. It will not be a financial burden.

Councilman Boyd said that the jet will be taxed as personal property. There is a tax ability of land lease. The hangar will be taxed as private property. Mr. Hendrix said that the building permit fee is \$2,500.

Ms. Cody asked for direction from the council. Council agreed to support the request from the Airport Authority at a funding level of \$31,927.

### **Proposed Funding Levels for the Bridge**

Mr. Dennis Allen withdrew his request for the Bridge. He said that he thought they could overcome their problem. He said that he thinks the money that he was requesting should be redirected to the Industrial Authority. He said that he would withdraw his request at this time since there are more important things. He said that he would be back asking for money next year. Mayor Trapnell told Mr. Allen that the city appreciates what he does as a volunteer for this community.

### **Request from Sherriff John Miles**

Sherriff Miles said that he wanted to discuss the cost of dispatching for the city and housing city prisoners. He said that there is a great relationship between the Candler County Sherriff's Department and the Metter Police Department. It is pretty routine for the Sherriff's Department to dispatch for the Police Department and to house their prisoners. The city has stopped payment on these services. The city does not have a jail or dispatching services. In the old agreement the city paid the county \$40,000 for dispatching. Sherriff Miles said that he is asking for the city to continue paying the \$40,000 annually for non-emergency dispatching services. The agreement is with the Sherriff's Department but the money goes to the county general fund.

Ms. Cody said that in the old agreement referenced \$40,000 for dispatching and a jailer. In the 2008 Service Delivery Strategy, Ms. Cody never found an agreement for a per diem charge. She said that one solution to housing city inmates could be a 10% fee of base fine added for funding jail construction. Sherriff Miles agreed as long as it is legal to use it to off-set that amount. If it ever went over that amount then the city would be billed, but he didn't see that happening. Ms. Cody said that she thinks the \$35 per day charge is very fair. She recommended accepting the recommendation from the Sherriff's Office on the \$35 per day charge and to add-on the 10% fees for funding jail construction.

Sherriff Miles said that this still doesn't address dispatching. The E-911 Center gets the emergency calls. The Sherriff's Department only handles non-emergency calls.

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Councilman Boyd asked who pays for the dispatcher. He said that city council is obligated not to duplicate tax dollars.

**FY 2018 SPLOST Anticipated Funding Levels**

Ms. Cody said that she has presented the preliminary plans on how to allocate the 2005, 2011 and the future 2018 SPLOST funds. These figures are calculated on the 40% city portion of SPLOST funds. The county receives 56% of SPLOST funds, Pulaski receives 4% and the remaining comes to the city. The county is projecting the FY 2018 total SPLOST funds to be around \$8,000,000. They are discussing taking the first 20% of SPLOST county-wide for the hospital debt. That will cause a decrease in the city's portion \$500,000 to \$650,000. Chairman Thrift said this is a county tax to get rid of the \$90 fee for the hospital debt. Once the 20% is taken off the top, the city and county would have to agree on the other 80%. This can be split by negotiations or by population.

**Executive Session**

Councilwoman Colson made a motion to go into executive session regarding proposed or pending litigation and/or personnel issues. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

After the discussion was complete, Councilwoman Colson made a motion to go back into open session. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

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Angie Conner, City Clerk

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William M. Trapnell, Mayor