

**CITY OF METTER
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017
5:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 5:30 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
City Manager Mandi Cody
City Attorney Brent Carter
City Clerk Angie Conner
Police Chief Mack Seckinger
Public Works Director Cliff Hendrix
Fire Chief Jason Douglas
Finance Manager Cindy Collins
HR/Purchasing Manager Missy Edenfield
Victoria Gaitten Member & Visitors Service Coordinator
Carvy Snell, Metter Advertiser

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting, July 10, 2017

Councilman Boyd made a motion to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting held on Monday, June 12, 2017

Called Meeting held on Tuesday, May23, 2017

Councilman Thomas seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

2017 General Election

Councilwoman Colson made a motion to approve the resolution providing for the Call of the 2017 General Election for the City of Metter, Georgia; to provide for the qualifying fees and dates and times to qualify for Mayor, City Council Seat 2 District 1 and Seat 4 District 2; to provide for the appointment of the Candler County Probate Court Judge as the Election Superintendent; and to provide for the appointment of the City of Metter City Clerk as qualifying officer. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Candler County Commissioners – Changes to Service Agreements

City Manager Mandi Cody gave a report to council regarding notification from Candler County Board of Commissioners regarding changes to service agreements; impact on city operations; and operation contingency plans. Mayor Trapnell received a letter from Glyn Thrift, Chairman, Candler County Board of Commissioners stating after reviewing the city budget the county is advising the city of the changes in service arrangements as a result of the City's actions.

According to the letter, the inert landfill will now be a cash basis for the city as of July 10th, 2017. Mr. Hendrix said that he is working with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to get a temporary permit to stock pile yard debris on city property. He said that streets and lanes are chipping everything they can. Mr. Hendrix said that he will be contacting someone to see what the cost would be for them to grind and haul off the debris. There are other landfills that are approved by EPD. The closest one to us is Bulloch County. Mr. Hendrix assured council that streets and lanes are still operating and picking up debris. There has not been an interruption in service to our customers. He said that we are alright with junk and white goods until this Friday. The metal that is picked up can be taken to Allied Recycling. We are still working on what to do.

Mr. Hendrix said that the city is averaging 91 tons of yard waste and 21 tons of brown goods per month. One option could be to take the monthly average and pay in advance if the county would agree. The second option would be to discontinue the services. Mr. Hendrix said that the city can stock pile old tires. The county charged us a \$1 per tire to

take them to the landfill. Mr. Hendrix said he is working on getting a price and a way to get rid of them. Councilwoman Colson said that Metter Ford has a company that picks up old tires from them and she will get the price that they are paying for this service. Mr. Hendrix said that he is still exploring what to do with the brown goods.

Ms. Cody said that she is not recommending operating on cash basis. She said that the county is still not charging for household waste and this service has not been interrupted. Ms. Cody did not recommend storing brown goods. She said that the city has three options: 1) operating on a cash basis with Candler County, 2) stop the service, or 3) haul the debris to another facility. Councilman Boyd asked what the charge would be to haul this stuff to the county. Ms. Cody said that she could ask City Attorney Brent Carter to ask for a schedule of fees from the landfill. Councilman Boyd asked if the commercial businesses could use the recycle center at the landfill. Ms. Cody said that she is mostly concerned about the brown and white goods. She said that she would like to continue this service to our citizens and haul it off to another location. Councilman Boyd asked if we could contract with a third party to haul it off. Ms. Cody said that the city will move forward with finding an appropriate plan so that we do not have to do the cash basis.

Ms. Cody said that the next thing the letter addresses is the use of the courthouse for our municipal court. Effectively immediately the county will begin charging a \$500 per month rental charge for usage of the courthouse. All scheduling must be done through the Clerk's office and all scheduling conflicts will be resolved in the favor of State, Superior, or Juvenile court schedules. City Attorney Brent Carter informed council that he had checked with County Attorney Kendall Gross to see if we can use the courthouse this month since court is tomorrow night and go forward with the charges for next month. They agreed to this term. Ms. Cody said that she does not have that in writing and that the letter states immediately. She will be prepared to hold court at the Metter Police Department if necessary.

Next the letter addresses the Recreation Department. The letter states that the county will continue to provide recreation services to all residents. However, the level of services may have to be adjusted therefore reducing the services provided to all residents and harming our young people. It also states that the county will resolve the enforceability of standing and current agreements through other mechanisms.

The letter also says that the county understands and supports the Sheriff's intention to cease on a relatively fast time table the provision of any and all non-emergency dispatch services for the City of Metter. Ms. Cody says that she believes that the Sheriff is under a difference of opinion. This issue could be resolved. Mayor Trapnell said that at the present time the Sheriff said he would not make any changes but he is still hoping for the annual \$40,000 from the city. Sheriff Miles said he would not put the officers safety in jeopardy. Ms. Cody said at the next meeting we can adopt the add-on fees to provide revenue for the jail.

Regular Meeting, July 10, 2017

The letter ended by stating that previously cost levels for these services were on an historical basis but any future resumption of services will be on current and real cost numbers.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Trapnell did not have a report.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Department Report

Chief Seckinger submitted a written report. He also reported that alert training is being performed at the Metter Police Department. There are several local agencies and military from Fort Stewart participating. There are two full classes.

Ms. Cody stated that Mr. Hendrix and Chief Seckinger are working on changing over Animal Services from Public Works to Public Safety.

Public Works Report

Mr. Hendrix submitted a written report.

Fire Department Report

Chief Douglas submitted a written report.

Administration Report

Mrs. Conner submitted a written report.

Finance Report

Mrs. Collins reported that she is working with the auditors to close out the books for FY 2017. Year-end statements should be available soon.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Cody didn't have anything else to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of potential litigation. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Regular Meeting, July 10, 2017

After the discussion was complete, Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to open the meeting. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Smith, Welch, Webb & White

Councilwoman Kilcrease made a motion to approve the engagement of Smith, Welch, Webb & White, Attorneys at Law, as special counsel on behalf of the City of Metter for all matters regarding renegotiation of The City of Metter/Candler County Service Delivery Strategy and the 2018 Service Delivery Strategy. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was 2 in favor and 3 against. Councilwoman Kilcrease and Councilman Thomas voted in favor of the motion and Councilman Boyd, Councilwoman Colson, and Councilman MacGregor voted against the motion. The motion was defeated.

City Attorney Brent Carter Authorized to Negotiate Service Delivery Strategy

Councilman Boyd made a motion to amend the motion as listed on the agenda to authorize City Attorney Brent Carter to continue to negotiate with Candler County in regards to the City of Metter/Candler County Service Delivery Strategy. Councilman MacGregor seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Angie Conner, City Clerk

William M. Trapnell, Mayor