MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
January 6, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on January 6, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

Commission Members Present:

Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins, III
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present:

Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney
Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney
Chris Floore – Assistant to County Manager
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs
Jean S. Howard – Interim Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr – Infrastructure
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. – Operations
Janice Ross – Training and Events Coordinator
Trae McCombs – Public Affairs

Guests in Attendance

Macon-Bibb County GCAPS Students:
Amelia Smith – Central High School
Brittney Childs – Industrial Authority

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ
Alexa Rodriguez – 41 WMGT
Malcolm Johnson – 41 WMGT
Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert.

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Reverend Dr. James Bumpus former pastor of Tremont Temple Baptist Church and Director of Macon-Bibb County’s Small Business Affairs Office.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS students Grace Nguyen of Central High School and Malik Thomas of Howard High School.

Mayor Reichert stated there were a couple of amendments to the agenda that needed to be approved that were discussed during the Pre-Commission meeting; items E and F under New Business were moved to be items R and S under Old Business for action at tonight’s meeting. Also, an additional item was added to New Business pertaining to the Wings Café.

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Scotty Shepherd and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to add the above stated changes.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on December 16, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on December 16, 2014

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on December 16, 2014 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Reverend Doctor James Bumpus, former pastor of Tremont Temple Baptist Church and Director of Macon-Bibb County’s Small Business Affairs Office was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

GCAP Students Grace Nguyen of Central High School and Malik Thomas of Howard High School were invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Alaine Bowman spoke of the adverse affect of the Wings Café to her long established
neighborhood and urged its license revocation.

Attorney Charlie Cox spoke on behalf of Mr. Tom Kim, owner of Wings Café, and gave a brief history of Mr. Kim’s military service and Federal employment since coming to the United States from Korea in 1977. He stated the club owner had done all he could to prevent and deal with trouble at his club, including adding security cameras, which were instrumental in identifying the individuals involved in December 12th violence at his club which left three dead, and hiring security guards.

He further stated sending Mr. Kim to Municipal Court could make other club owners reluctant to call police, and asked if the same standards applied to Wings Café were used for other clubs and bars and urged a no vote on the Resolution.

Mr. Tom Kim stated the large number of calls for police assistance was to minimize and deter violence and its escalation. Mr. Kim expressed his sadness for the families of the recent violence at his club.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chairman Gary Bechtel reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 and considered and/or approved the following:

- The Committee approved an appropriation of $1,000 to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and an appropriation $6,000 to the Fort Hawkins Commission

- Approved an agreement in the amount of seventy nine thousand nine hundred twenty-three dollars and fifty cents ($79,923.50) with Northeast Concrete Co., Inc. for the paving of Liberty Church Road, the paving of Sofkee Road, and for the installation of sidewalks near Graham Road

- Approved an agreement for a Project Change Request between Macon-Bibb County and Mainline Information Systems, Inc. for ninety nine thousand dollars and no/100 for additional consulting and support services to the Information Technology Department to be paid from the Departmental Budget;

- Approved amending Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages of the County Code of Ordinances to make distance requirements for the sale of wine and malt beverages near churches consistent with State Law

- Approved retirement requests

- Approved acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Award in the amount of $24,000 with a Federal share of $18,000 and Local (In-Kind) match of $6,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Approved the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Supplemental Grant Award in the amount of $18,811 with a State share of $16,930 and Local (In-Kind) match of $1,881 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 and considered and/or approved the following:

- The re-appointment of Commissioner Gary Bechtel and Gene Dunwody, Sr. to the Macon Economic Development Commission
- The re-appointment of Violet Poe to the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority
- The appointment of Tom Sands and the re-appointment of Gene Dunwody, Jr. to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority
- The Committee also heard a presentation from Terry Koller, Director of Railroad Operations, and Coastal Heritage Society. It was the consensus of the Committee that locomotive #509 would be placed on permanent loan to the Railroad Museum located in Savannah.

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported that the Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 and considered the following:

- Chief Riggins reported on the progress of Fire Station #111 on Donnan Road, the Fire Civil Service Board, and the department’s Class One ranking
- Approved a Resolution requiring the named licensee of the Wings Café at 2822 Bloomfield Drive to appear before the Macon-Bibb County Municipal Court for violation of Section 4-53 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County; to determine whether to suspend or revoke any Alcoholic Beverage License issued to said location

Facilities and Engineering Committee – No Report

CONSENT AGENDA

New Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the following:

A. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Zebulon 6451 Inc., d/b/a Sunoco Food Mart located at 6451 Zebulon Road

B. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Macon TMP (Hartley Bridge Chevron) located at 5631 Houston Road

C. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Growler Spot located at 3841 Northside Drive
ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Ed DeFore, and carried unanimously, the Alcoholic Beverage License Applications were approved as presented.


OLD BUSINESS

A. An Ordinance to appropriate $6,000 ($1,000 per month for 6 months) to supplement various operational needs of Fort Hawkins and $1,000 in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for a total sum of $7,000

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to appropriate $6,000 ($1,000 per month for 6 months) from Fund Balance to supplement various operational needs of Fort Hawkins and $1,000 in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for a total sum of $7,000; and for lawful other purposes.

ACTION:


B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement in the amount of $79,923.50 with Northeast Concrete Co. Inc for the paving of Liberty Church Road, the paving of Sofkee Road, and for the installation of sidewalks near Graham Road

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement in the amount of seventy-nine thousand nine hundred twenty-three dollars and fifty cents ($79,923.50) with Northeast Concrete Co. Inc. for the paving of Liberty Church Road, the paving of Sofkee Road, and for the installation of sidewalks near Graham Road in a form to be approved by the County Attorney’s Office; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


C. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Project Change Request between Macon-Bibb County and Mainline Information Systems, Inc for ninety nine thousand
dollars and No/100 ($99,000.00) for additional consulting and support services to the Information Technology Department

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute a Project Change Request between Macon-Bibb County and Mainline Information Systems, Inc for ninety nine thousand dollars and No/100 ($99,000.00) for additional consulting and support services to the Information Technology Department to be paid from the Departmental Budget; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**


D. Ordinance amending Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances to make distance requirements for the sale of wine and malt beverages near churches consistent with State Law

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, amending Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances to make the distance requirements for the sale of wine and malt beverages near churches consistent with State Law; to provide for repeal of conflicting Ordinances; to provide an effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

**ACTION:**


E. Approval of Retirements:

- **Clerk read by caption:** Approval of Retirements: Carl Hart – Law Enforcement (36 yrs. 2 mos.) Elizabeth Jordan – General (30 yrs. 11 mos.) Ronnie Lord – General (12 yrs. 11 mos.) Jane Reeves – Magistrate Court (25 yrs. 11 mos.) Charles Sanfarrare – Law Enforcement (20 yrs. 8 mos.) William Simpson – Information Technology (39 yrs. 5 mos.) Franklin Thomas – Law Enforcement (26 yrs. 5 mos.) John Daniel Thompson - General (13 yrs. 7 mos.) Shelia Thurmond – Clerk’s Office (32 yrs. 5 mos.) Belgica Wall (11 yrs. 11 mos.)

Mayor Reichert expressed appreciation and thanks to the retirees for their years of dedicated service.

**ACTION:**

- On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Larry
Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the retirements approved.


F. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Award in the amount of $24,000 with a Federal share of $18,000 and Local (In-Kind) match of $6,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Award in the amount of $24,000 with a Federal share of $18,000 and Local (In-Kind) match of $6,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded to Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


G. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Supplemental Grant Award in the amount of $18,811 with a State share of $16,930 and Local (In-Kind) match of $1,881 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Supplemental Grant Award in the amount of $18,811 with a State share of $16,930 and Local (In-Kind) match of $1,881 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


H. Resolution to re-appoint Commissioner Gary Bechtel and Gene Dunwody, Sr. to the Macon Economic Development Commission

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to re-appoint Commissioner Gary Bechtel and Gene Dunwody, Sr. to the Macon Economic Development Commission; and for other purposes.

ACTION:
• Commissioner Gary Bechtel, as one of the appointees, recused himself from the vote.

I. Resolution to re-appoint Violet Poe to the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to re-appoint Violet Poe to the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:


J. Resolution to appoint Tom Sands and to re-appoint Gene Dunwody, Jr. to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to appoint Tom Sands and to re-appoint Gene Dunwody, Jr. to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


K. Resolution to require the named licensee of the Wings Café at 2822 Bloomfield Drive to appear before the Macon-Bibb County Municipal Court for violation of SEC. 4-53 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County; to determine whether to suspend or revoke any alcoholic beverage license issued to said location

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to require the named licensee of the Wings Café at 2822 Bloomfield Drive to appear before the Macon-Bibb County Municipal Court for violation of SEC. 4-53 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County; to determine whether to suspend or revoke any alcoholic beverage license issued to said location; and for other lawful purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas stated she would be voting NO on the Resolution and recommended further study be done on addressing violence as well as safety and security concerns with club owners and the public overall in Macon-Bibb County before taking any action regarding Wings Café. She also stated possible litigation could result from any action taken against the Wings Café at this time.
ACTION:


- Commissioner Elaine Lucas voted NO.

L. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a twenty four month lease agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Congressman Sanford Bishop for 1800 square feet of office space located on the third floor of the Government Center Annex for $1,000/month for the purpose of general office use.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute a twenty four month lease agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Congressman Sanford Bishop for 1800 square feet of office space located on the third floor of the Government Center Annex for $1,000/month for the purpose of general office use; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


NEW BUSINESS

None

The Mayor stated any new business received would be referred to Committees for action.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ret. Major George Brown spoke on the fees charged to Senior Citizens at the recreation centers and asked the $20 fee to play cards at the Senior Center be eliminated. He also asked the fee charged at Bowden Golf Course to seniors be reduced by $4.00 on Tuesdays of each week.

Mr. John Wilson spoke on the importance of the Fire Department to have paramedics at each engine company.

Dr. Lindsay Holliday spoke on transportation needs at Middle Georgia Regional Airport and asked for the initiation of a study for joint use of a Robins Air Force Base citizen’s terminal. He also spoke on the MATS Policy Committee.
POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Pro Tem Bivins announced a Taste of Macon-Bibb County Follies event to be held on January 30th at the Douglass Theatre at 6:30 P.M. to raise funds for the GCAPS student program, sponsored by the Macon-Bibb County Government. The Mayor and several Commissioners will be participants on the program. He urged everyone to participate in this event to benefit the youth of our community. Tickets for the event are $15.00.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.


Jean S. Howard, CMC
Interim Clerk of Commission