The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on October 7, 2014 at 6:26 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center. Mayor Reichert stated the meeting began late due to the Mayor and Commissioners getting flu shots administered by the Macon-Bibb County Health Department. The Mayor stated this action by the Commission, hopefully, would encourage others to get their flu shots.

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

**Staff Present:**
- Julie Moore – Asst. to County Manager
- Judd Drake – County Attorney
- Crystal Jones, Sr. Asst. County Attorney
- Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney
- Chris Floore – Asst. to County Manager
- Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs
- Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
- Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr – Infrastructure
- Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission
- Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
- Trae McCombs – Public Affairs

**Guests in Attendance**
- Attorney Kevin Brown
- Britney Childs – Industrial Authority
- Sheriff David Davis
- Nancy White
- Bud Fletcher
- Macon-Bibb County GCAPS Students
- Chatham County Youth Commission
- Students

**News Media Present**
- Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
- Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA

**CALLED TO ORDER**

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

**PRAYER**

The prayer was rendered by Pastor Jarred Hammet of Northminster Presbyterian Church.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS students Caroline Anderson and Marquis Chester.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ACTION:

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


Mayor Reichert stated on the advice of County Attorney, Judd Drake, tonight's agenda needed to be amended to add an action item (approved in the Executive Session during today’s Pre-Commission meeting) which is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the lease of property which will be Item J under Old Business.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Gary Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to add Item J to tonight’s agenda for action.


INVITED GUESTS

Pastor Jarred Hammet of Northminster Presbyterian Church was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

Chatham County Youth Commission of Savannah, Georgia, along with Savannah Commission Chairman Al Scott, Mayor Pro Tem and Alderman Van Johnson, the Chatham County Youth Commission Director Dr. Priscilla Thomas, and Corliss Bates, City of Savannah Citizen Engagement Coordinator, who was representing Mayor Edna Jackson.

Mayor Reichert presented a Proclamation to Mayor Pro Tem and Alderman Van
Johnson declaring October 7, 2014 as “GCAPS Day in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia”. Framed copies of the 2013 Cherry Blossom print, along with gift bags, were presented in recognition of the group’s visit to Macon and their many accomplishments in motivating and recognizing students in the Chatman County area since its 22-year inception.

Mayor Pro Tem and Alderman Van Johnson thanked the Mayor, Commissioners, Charles Coney, and Kevin Barrere for the hospitality and welcome extended by Macon-Bibb County to his group. He gave an overview of Chatham County’s GCAPS program and its 22 years of service and accomplishments of the youth of Chatham County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS
None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Gary Bechtel reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 and considered the following:

- The Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Hybrid Vehicle and a 2015 15-Passenger Van for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $53,493.12 to be paid from SPLOST Funds.

- The Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Fire Investigator Vehicle and a 2015 SUV for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $62,750.00 to be paid from SPLOST Funds.

- The Committee approved the Ordinance to appropriate additional funds for the Board of Elections to implement Sunday voting, contingent upon the Board of Elections approving said Sunday voting for citizens.

- A Resolution to adopt the Third Amendment to the Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968 to comply with IRS Notice 2014-19 relating to the Supreme Court decision in the Windsor Case overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (“DOMA”).

Economic and Community Development Committee

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

- The Mayor was authorized to execute an agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority to acquire easements and right-of-ways adjacent to Log Cabin Drive for the purpose of construction projects in order to add sidewalks, construct a pedestrian bridge over Rocky Creek, to repair the existing bridge located near Rocky
Creek, and to realign the intersection of Hollingsworth Road and Log Cabin Drive to provide a safer intersection.

- A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to proclaim Saturday, November 15, 2014 as “America Recycles Day”. The Work Session on October 14, 2014 will be on the topic, “Recycling in Macon-Bibb County - What We Are Doing - What Can You Do To Help!”

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd stated the Public Safety Committee met on September 23, 2014 and considered the following:

- Commissioners are seeking nominations for appointments to the Fire Civil Service Board. This matter will be heard at the October 14, 2014 Public Safety Committee meeting.

- At the request of several bar owners, an Ordinance change was drafted to raise the age to enter a bar to 21 which they believe would help save lives and stop injuries. The Ordinance would forbid persons under the age of 21 from entering, remaining in or loitering at certain licensed premises. The Public Safety Committee voted to hold two public forums to get input from anyone interested in the Ordinance. The first Public Forum was held today at 4:00 P.M. and the next Public Forum will be held on October 14th at 2:15 P.M.

- The Committee reviewed the report on Taxi Cab complaints. Although there were few complaints, the ones that did exist dealt with the fees charged. The matter of fees will be heard at the October 14, 2014 meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on September 23, 2014 and considered the following:

- The Resolution to erect a memorial sign in honor of Reverend Marshell Stenson, Jr. to be located on Haywood Road was approved, contingent upon the approval of Mrs. Stenson.

- Consideration of an Ordinance to allow golf carts to be used in certain areas of the city. Drivers of golf carts must be 16 years of age, 18 years old to register a motorized cart, must use headlights, blinkers, and the application for registering the cart must be on file in the Sheriff’s Office. This Ordinance will be considered again at the October 14, 2014 meeting of the Facilities and Engineering Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

New Alcoholic Beverage License Applications for the following establishments:
1. Market Place – located at 2006 Vineville Avenue
2. Market Place – located at 1091 Clinton Road
3. Red Lobster # 48 – located at 2077 Riverside Drive
4. Welcome – located at 815 Shurling Drive
5. Welcome – located at 6440 Houston Road
6. Family Corner – located 4933 Sardis Church Road
7. Lizella Super Market – 3309 Holley Road
8. Star Food Mart – located at 4739 Houston Road
9. Pinebrook Package Store – 4448 Forsyth Road
10. Hooters of Macon – Located at 112 Riverside Parkway

**ACTION:**

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


**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Hybrid Vehicle and 2015 15-passenger Van for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $53,493.12 to be paid from SPLOST Funds

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Hybrid Vehicle and a 2015 Passenger Van for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $53,493.12, to be paid from SPLOST Funds, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Fire Investigator Vehicle and a 2015 SUV for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $62,750.00 to be paid from SPLOST Funds

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Fire Investigator Vehicle and a 2015 SUV for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $62,750.00, to be paid from SPLOST Funds, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.
ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

C. Ordinance to appropriate additional funds for the Board of Elections to implement Sunday voting, contingent upon the Board of Elections approving said Sunday voting for citizens

- **Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to appropriate additional funds for the Board of Elections to implement Sunday voting, contingent upon the Board of Elections approving said Sunday voting for citizens; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

- **Approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman. Commissioners Mallory Jones and Ed DeFore voted No.**

D. Resolution to adopt the Third Amendment to the Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968 to comply with IRS Notice 2014-19 relating to the Supreme Court decision in the Windsor Case overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt the Third Amendment to the Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968 to comply with the IRS Notice 2014-19, relating to the Supreme Court decision in the Windsor Case overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (“DOMA”); and for other lawful purposes.**

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

E. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority to acquire easements and right-of-ways adjacent to Log Cabin Drive for the purpose of construction projects

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority to acquire easements and right-of-ways adjacent to Log Cabin Drive for the purpose of construction projects; and for other purposes.**

Discussion: Commissioner Tillman stated he recently met with the Bellevue Concerned Citizens group, whose members stated they were very pleased with the plans to begin work in their area and wanted to be given updates and progress reports as the work continued. Mayor Reichert stated this was a SPLOST project and it could possibly be 9-12 months before any work was
done due to the acquisition of easements and right-of-ways. Commissioner DeFore state this has been a much needed project for a long time.

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

F. Resolution proclaiming Saturday, November 15, 2014 as “America Recycles Day” in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to proclaim Saturday, November 15, 2014 as “America Recycles Day” in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia; and for other lawful purposes.**

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

G. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant in the amount of $54,049.00 from the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of a Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant in the amount of $54,049.00 from the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Élaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

H. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant in the amount of $39,004.00 from the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia awarded to the Bibb County Solicitor General’s Office

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of a Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant in the amount of $39,004.00 from the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia awarded to the Bibb County Solicitor General’s Office; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Élaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.**

I. Resolution to authorize and approve the selection of State Court Probation as the provider of Probation Services for the Macon-Bibb County Magistrate Court

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize and approve the selection of State Court Probation as the provider of Probation Services for the Macon-Bibb County Magistrate Court; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Tillman stated going forward contact information for probation officers needed to be provided. Mayor Reichert stated the Chief Probation Officer was the contact person and he would be glad to make that information available.

ACTION:


J. Resolution to authorize and approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Spirit of America Theme Park and Development, LLC

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize and approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Macon-Bibb County and Spirit of America Theme Park and Development, LLC providing for the investment by developer of not less than $2,700,000 for development of a recreational water park attraction with attendant facilities at Sandy Beach Park at the Lake Toesofkee Recreation Area and providing for the investment by Macon-Bibb County of up to $248,000 for site improvements at Lake Toesofkee; to authorize and approve the use of the Series 2013A and Series 2013B Urban Development Authority Bond proceeds designated for Lake Toesofkee for funding said site improvements; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


NEW BUSINESS


Referred To: Public Safety Committee
B. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with the Georgia Department of Corrections for the use of prison labor to supplement the Public Works Department workforce at $39,500 per detail for one year, for a total of $316,000.00 for FY 2015

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

C. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a lease agreement with State Government of Georgia on behalf of the Division of Family and Children Services for 175 Emery Highway in the amount of $62,200.00

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

D. Resolution to adopt the Fourth Amendment to the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968 so as to establish the Macon-Bibb County General Employees Pension Trustee Board, to designate the composition of the Board and to grant the newly designated Board those powers formerly granted to the Macon-Bibb County Board of Commissioners

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

E. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Community Foundation Program Grant in the amount of $10,000.00 from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Inc. awarded to the Macon Circuit Public Defender’s Office

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

F. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of an Emergency Management Performance Grant Performance Partnership Award in the amount of $55,752.00 from the United States Department of Homeland Security awarded to the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

G. Resolution approving changes in Macon-Bibb County’s Group and Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Health Plans, including design, eligibility and premium contribution changes

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

H. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority for the lease of office space at the Terminal Station Building for use by the Macon-Bibb County Information Technology Staff; to authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Transit Authority for the Information Technology Staff to provide information technology services to the Transit Authority

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee
I. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Conditioned Air, Inc. for $161,105.00 for the installation and replacement of HVAC Systems at various recreation centers in Macon-Bibb County

*Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee*

J. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Aero Art, LLC for a Ground Lease Agreement at Macon Downtown Airport; to authorize the termination of all previous agreements at Macon Downtown Airport with Lloyd “Bo” George and any company, corporation, or agent of Lloyd “Bo” George; to approve the acceptance of a quitclaim deed from Lloyd “Bo” George for any and all remaining interest in all other property at Macon Downtown Airport

*Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee*

K. Resolution to consider a petition submitted on behalf of Richard S. George requesting that Macon-Bibb County construct and maintain additional right-of-way on Crawford Road

*Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee*

L. Resolution to establish and provide a summary of the Health and Life Insurance Retirement Benefits currently available to former Bibb County employees, former City of Macon employees, and Macon-Bibb County employees hired on or after January 1, 2014, and to adopt an Amendment to the Macon-Bibb County Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Agreement providing that these retirement benefits may be funded by Macon-Bibb County under the Trust Agreement

*Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee*

M. Resolution adopting the United States Conference of Mayors’ 457 Deferred Compensation Retirement Program administered through Great-West Financial to be made available to all eligible Macon-Bibb County Employees and Elected Officials

*Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee*

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Willie J. Smith stated the property cleared for the Filmore Thomas Park on Log Cabin Drive now has trees growing on the cleared area and expressed concern for the neglect of the property by the City. Mayor Reichert responded to Mr. Smith that improvements are in the works for the property.

Theresa Hugley, President of the Kings Park Development Association, stated things were going on in her neighborhood and nothing has happened and that she has been unable to get in touch with her Commission representative to find out why things have not happened. She added Sheriff David Davis, who was in attendance, had delivered on his promises.

Patricia Fay Brown spoke on freedom.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.


Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission