MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION  
November 18, 2014 – 6:01 P.M.  
Government Center  
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on November 18, 2014 at 6:01 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:
Dale Walker – County Manager  
Judd Drake – County Attorney  
Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney  
Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney  
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney  
Chris Floore – Asst. to County Manager  
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission  
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr – Infrastructure  
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission  
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs  
Trae McCombs, Public Affairs  
Shanta Gilmore, Archive Specialist – BOC

Guests in Attendance
Sheriff David Davis  
June Parker, Macon Housing Authority  
Dr. Lindsay Holliday  
Lester Miller, Bibb School Board Member  
Macon-Bibb County GCAPS Students:  
   Ta’lareah Howard  
   Robert (Brandon) Wright

News Media Present
Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  
Kristen Swilley – 13 WMAZ  
Kenley Hargett – 41 NBC  
Malcolm Johnson – WGXA FOX 24

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

PRAYER
The prayer was rendered by Pastor Brandon Pitts of Covenant Church of Jesus Christ.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS students Ta’lareah Howard of Southwest High School and Robert (Brandon) Wright of Mount de Sales Academy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on November 4, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on November 4, 2014

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on November 4, 2014 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Pastor Brandon Pitts of Covenant Church of Jesus Christ was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

Robert “BJ” Shepherd, President-Bibb Association of Educators, was presented a Proclamation in recognition of “American Education Week.” The Proclamation was initiated and endorsed by his uncle, Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, and presented by Mayor Reichert, Commissioner Shepherd, Commissioners Lucas and Bivins (both retired educators) and Bibb County Board of Education member, Lester Miller. Mr. Shepherd thanked the Commissioners and invited them to participate on Thursday in the “Educator for the Day” observance in Bibb County Schools.

June Parker, Executive Director of the Macon Housing Authority, announced that notification had been received from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs approving the request of the Authority for Tax Credits to convert the former Hunt Elementary School property on Shurling Drive into apartments for Senior Citizens. She thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for their support and looks forward to the project making a difference in the East Macon community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Lindsay Holliday spoke on Item E under New Business which authorizes the Sheriff to complete the required Department of Public Safety application to continue utilizing speed detection devices in Macon-Bibb County. Dr. Holliday stated traffic calming designs should also be included in the Department of Transportation’s Forest Hill Road project.
REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

NO REPORTS – The Committees did not meet on Tuesday, November 11th due to the observance of Veterans Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Alcoholic Beverage License for the following establishments:
   1. ALDI, Inc. #10 – located at 4501 Log Cabin Drive
   2. Fountain of Juice, LLC – located at 4123 Forsyth Road

ACTION:

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


OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Kumho Pilot Agreement and approving the Kumho Pilot Payments Schedule

   Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute the Kumho Pilot Agreement and approving the Kumho Pilot Payments Schedule, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibits “A” and “B”; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


B. Resolution to approve the exercise of Eminent Domain to acquire in fee simple the property commonly known as 430 Craft Street, 1806 First Avenue, and 1818 First Avenue

   Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to approve the exercise of Eminent Domain to acquire in Fee Simple the property commonly known as 430 Craft Street, 1806 First Avenue, and 1818 First Avenue, Macon, Bibb County Georgia; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

C. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with T. Y. Lin International, Inc. for the design of the Mercer University Drive signature pedestrian bridge, approaches, and plaza

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between Macon-Bibb County and T. Y. Lin International, Inc. for professional services related to the design of the Mercer University Drive Signature Pedestrian Bridge, approaches, and plaza using Tax Allocation Bond (Second Street TAD-2) funds; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


D. Ordinance to amend Charter Appendix II, Division A of the Macon-Bibb County Pension and Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances, so as to comply with IRS Notice 2014-19, relating to the Supreme Court decision in the Windsor Case overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) [First Reading]

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend Charter Appendix II, Division A of the Macon-Bibb County Pension and Retirement System (1972 GA. Laws, page 3152) of the Code of Ordinances, Macon-Bibb County, Georgia so as to comply with 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:


E. Ordinance to amend Charter Appendix III, Macon Fire and Police Employees Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances, so as to comply with IRS Notice overturning the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) [First Reading]

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend Charter Appendix III, Macon Fire and Police Employees Retirement System (1969 GA. Laws, page 2801) of the Code of Ordinances, Macon-Bibb County, Georgia so as to comply with 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:**

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation introduce Legislation during the 2015 Session of the Georgia General Assembly for the purpose of amending Section 23 of the Charter of Macon-Bibb County to reduce the total budget reduction required by Fiscal Year 2019 be reduced from a total of twenty percent (20%) to a total of ten percent (10%) of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

B. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Tourism Product Development Grant in the amount of $4,645 awarded to the Mayor’s Office

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

C. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Christmas with a Deputy Grant in the amount of $2,500 awarded to the Sheriff’s Department

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

D. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Lakay Enterprises, Inc. to provide services on a Water Distribution System near Level Acres Drive

**Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee**

E. Resolution authorizing the Sheriff to complete the required Department of Public Safety application to continue to utilize Speed Detection Devices in Macon-Bibb County for law enforcement purposes

**Referred To: Public Safety Committee**

F. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Due South Investments, LLC for office space in the BB&T Building to be occupied by the Public Defender’s Office for the Macon Judicial Circuit

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**
G. Resolution reappointing Mike Gardner and Reverend Evans Brown to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

*Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee*

H. Resolution to appoint Dominique Johnson to fill a vacant seat on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

*Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee*

I. Resolution to appoint the Superintendent of the Bibb County Board of Education, or his/her designee, to serve on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

*Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee*

J. Resolution to confirm Mayor Robert Reichert’s appointment of Mary Hicks Wimberly to the Macon-Bibb County Fire Civil Service Board

*Referred To: Public Safety Committee*

K. Resolution in support of Senate Bill 2891 (2014) and House Bill 4726 (2014) of 113th Congress, jointly known as the Renovation in Surface Transportation Act 2014; authorizing the Mayor and Macon-Bibb County Commission to execute a Letter of Support to the Congressional Delegation

*Referred To: Operations & Finance Committee*

L. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for, and accept if awarded, the Georgia Recreational Trails Program Grant application for $100,000 from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to construct a portion of the connector trail between Amerson Waterworks and the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail

*Referred To: Operations & Finance Committee*

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Lindsay Holliday gave an update on the MATS Policy Committee meeting held on November 5th where he stated the Citizens Advisory Committee was stripped of its independence. He further stated the Citizens Advisory Committee had adopted and initiated several community enhancements such as Safe Routes to Schools, traffic calming on Second Street, and the roundabout at Mercer University.

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**
Commissioner Al Tillman announced the “2014 Mayor’s and Commissioners’ Christmas Motorcade”, which is an annual event to provide holiday gifts to patients at Central State Hospital. He requested monetary donations, clothing, blankets, toiletries, or other supplies to help the hospital assist its clients. He further stated the gifts these clients receive are often the only gifts they receive. He urged everyone to give generously by November 26th. The Motorcade is being facilitated by Charles Coney, Assistant County Manager for Operations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Reichert stated the December 2nd Pre-Commission and Regular Commission Meetings are being re-scheduled to December 9th due to a majority of the Commissioners attending mandated Newly Elected Commissioners training in Athens, Georgia.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.


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Shelia Thurmond, CCC  
Clerk of Commission