MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION  
February 18, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.  
Government Center  
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on February 18, 2014 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 Virgil Watkins  
Commissioner Elaine Lucas  
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III

Commissioner Ed DeFore  
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd  
Commissioner Al Tillman  
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger

**Absent:**

Commissioner Gary Bechtel

**Staff Present**

Dale Walker – County Manager  
Julie Moore – Asst. to Co. Mgr., Strategic Planning & Budget  
Judd Drake – County Attorney  
Stuart Morelli – Asst. County Attorney  
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager – Facilities & Engineering  
Charles Coney – Asst. County Manager – Operations & Finance  
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission  
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission  
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator  
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr., Public Affairs  
Grant Faulkner – Information Technology  
Sam Kitchens – Buildings & Properties  
Larry Dunning – Public Works  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs

**News Media Present**

Phillip Ramati - The Telegraph  
Katelyn Heck - 13 WMAZ  
Anita Oh - 13 WMAZ

**Guests In Attendance**

Gwennette Westbrooks - President, Macon NAACP  
Members Macon Branch of the NAACP  
Erica Woodford, Clerk, Bibb Superior Court  
Sam Hart – Former Bibb Commission Chairman  
Delores Harmon  
Shawn Stafford  
Adah Roberts  
Donald Richardson, Jr.  
Dr. Lindsey Holliday
CALL TO ORDER:

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

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Dr. Tim McCoy of Ingleside Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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 February 4th were approved as presented.


RECOGNITION OF INVITED GUESTS

George McCanless, Jeff Battcher, Eric Manson, and Eli Morgan

Jeff Battcher, on behalf Promise Neighborhood, invited everyone to attend a Health and Safety Fair at the Promise Center at noon on Friday. He stated the Health Fair was part of a Promise Neighborhood initiative. The Morehouse School of Medicine Band, along with Dr. Montgomery Rice, the first African-American Woman Dean of a Medical School and a graduate of Southwest High School, will be in attendance to provide free dental, glucose checks, blood pressure checks and other health services to not only those in the Promise Neighborhood, but to everybody in the Middle Georgia area. He also stated there would be a navigator onsite to provide assistance with the Affordable Healthcare Act. Dr. Rice is scheduled to address students at 10:00 A.M. prior to meeting with business and community leaders at a luncheon at the Promise Center.

NAACP President Gwennette Westbrooks and members of the local chapter of the NAACP

Mayor Reichert presented a Proclamation proclaiming February as Black History Month to Ms. Westbrooks and other NAACP members present. The Proclamation recognized the many contributions and accomplishments of African Americans in the United States and globally.
Dr. Tim McCoy of Ingleside Baptist Church
Dr. McCoy was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission meeting. Mayor Reichert asked and received unanimous consent to move to the Consent Agenda and present the Resolution of Appreciation to Dr. McCoy and members of Ingleside Baptist Church. Commissioner Mallory Jones was the initial sponsor of the Resolution. Mayor Reichert presented the Resolution and expressed his and the other Commissioners’ appreciation and gratitude to Dr. McCoy and the members of Ingleside Baptist Church for the warm welcome and prayers offered the Commissioners and their families at the their first Sunday service in the new year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Shawn Stafford addressed the need for a Disparity Study, which has been referred back to the Finance and Operations Committee. Mr. Stafford stated he has been in business for 14 years and had not received any City contracts and only one County contract, but had received six-eight million dollars in contracts with Valdosta that he brings back to Macon, and wondered why he had received none of the contracts he had bid on with the City. Based on this fact, he felt a Disparity Study was needed.

Anthony Hightower also addressed the need for a Disparity Study. He felt the procurement practices of the new government should be studied and reviewed. He asked that the Resolution be given deep thought going forward.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Vice-Chair Elaine Lucas reported the committee met on February 11th and approved the following items: An Ordinance to appropriate $125,460 from the Fund Balance to the Board of Elections to fund unexpected expenses; a Resolution to request Macon-Bibb County begin the process of hiring and funding a Director of Small Business Affairs to provide for the collection of data and information necessary to conduct a Disparity Study and to provide for monitoring to ensure minority and small businesses enterprises are being provided meaningful opportunities to contract with Macon-Bibb County.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported his committee met on February 11th and approved a Resolution recognizing Ingleside Baptist Church for honoring the Commission; the Committee approved a Resolution to request adoption of a Local Act of the General Assembly establishing a Community Improvement District along Eisenhower Parkway between Interstate 75 and Interstate 475; a report was received from Dale Dougherty on the improvements at the recreation centers. Mr. Dougherty will continue to provide updates to the Committee on a regular basis.

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported his committee met on February 11th and received a report from Sheriff David Davis on his department since Consolidation. Sheriff
Davis reported his department was working to receive certification from the state as a Level One department. All former police officers are being equipped with Tasers and training on their use. Sheriff Davis invited everyone to visit and view all training being conducted at his office.

Fire Chief Marvin Riggins gave an update on the status and actions being taken to maintain the Fire Department Level One status, and stated the three new fire stations would help in accomplishing this goal.

**Facilities and Engineering Committee**
Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported his committee met on February 11th and considered the policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities, and streets. This item was tabled and will be reconsidered at the February 25th Committee meeting. The renaming of the Freedom Park Gym for Bishop Frank Ray was also tabled until such time as the policy for naming and renaming streets, parks, and other facilities was approved. Chairman Tillman stated that he respectfully disagreed with the Committee pursuant to Rule 16-3. Commissioner Tillman motioned and Commissioner Schlesinger seconded to place the Resolution on the Agenda in two weeks.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Lucas expressed concern about not having background checks done on persons for which facilities are named. Commissioner Tillman emphasized the importance of naming the Freedom Park Boxing Club in honor of Bishop Frank Ray because of his service to the community and for his role in starting the boxing club in Macon.

The motion was unanimously approved by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A Resolution recognizing Ingleside Baptist Church for honoring Commissioners on the request of Mayor Reichert and by unanimous consent, this item was moved to the Invited Guests section of tonight’s Agenda.


**OLD BUSINESS**

A. An Ordinance to appropriate $125,460 from Fund Balance to the Board of Elections to fund unexpected expenses.

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County Georgia to appropriate $125,460 from Fund Balance to the Board of Elections to fund unexpected expenses due to increased number of Elections in Bibb County occurring prior to June 30, 2014.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory
B. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt the Second Amendment to the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt the second amendment to the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968 so as to provide for participation of employees hired on or after January 1, 2014; and for other purposes.


C. A Resolution calling for a Referendum for the Bibb County Plan and Macon Plan A.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting that the State of Georgia Social Security Coordinator be notified of Macon-Bibb County’s desire to hold a referendum by its employees participating in or eligible for the Bibb County Plan and Macon Plan A, so as to allow said employees to remain covered by Social Security under a new 218 Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and the Social Security Administration; and for other purposes.


D. A Resolution delegating to the Tax Commissioner the authority to waive the collection of amounts representing penalties and interest assessed for failure to pay ad valorem taxes.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission delegating to the Tax Commissioner of Bibb County the authority to waive the collection of amounts representing penalties and interest assessed for failure to pay Ad Valorem Taxes; for other purposes.


E. A Resolution setting the expense allowance for the first day of service for Grand and Traverse Jurors at twenty-five dollars.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission setting the expense allowance rate for the first day of service for Grand and Traverse Jurors at twenty-five dollars; and for other purposes.

F. An Ordinance to appropriate $8,000 from Fund Balance to Clerk of Superior Court.
   • Clerk read by caption: A Ordinance of Macon-Bibb County Georgia to appropriate $8,000 from Fund Balance to Clerk of Superior Clerk - to fund an increase of first day expense pay to $25 prior to June 30, 2014.


G. Approval of Retirements: Donald Balkcom of Custodial Services (29 years & five months) and Sheila Jackson of Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful (15 years).


H. A Resolution to request adoption of a Local Act of the General Assembly establishing a Community Improvement District along Eisenhower Parkway between Interstate 75 and Interstate 475.
   • Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to request the adoption of a Local Act of the General Assembly establishing a Community Improvement District along Eisenhower Parkway between Interstate 75 and Interstate 475; and for other purposes.


I. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving the request of Jeremy Bryant of Jeremy Bryant to put on a fireworks display at Arrowhead Park on Memorial Day Weekend.
   • Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving the request of Jeremy Bryant to put on a fireworks display at Arrowhead Park on Memorial Day Weekend; and for other purposes.


J. A Resolution regarding a Disparity Study.
   • Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to request that Macon-Bibb County begin the process of funding Office and hiring a director of Small Business Affairs; to provide for the collection of the data and information necessary to conduct a Disparity Study; and to provide for monitoring to ensure that minority and small business enterprises are
being provided meaningful opportunities to contract with Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.


Mayor Reichert stated the process for hiring a Director of Small Business Affairs had begun. He also stated the job description had been formulated and the position had been posted and advertised, and that some applications had been received. Commissioner Watkins, the Resolution’s sponsor, upon hearing the Mayor’s statement agreed to have the Resolution referred back to the Operations and Finance Committee for further discussion and action.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Supplemental Budget Requests

- Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

B. A Resolution appointing agents to Pension Plan

The Mayor stated the Resolution was added and amended at today’s Pre-Commission meeting.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, as Trustees of the Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan, (F/K/A the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968), to appoint County Manager Dale Walker; the Finance Director Christy Iuliucci; and the Assistant Finance Director Megan McMahon as agents of said Plan with the authority for any two individuals appointed to act jointly on behalf of the Commission for the purpose of effectuating all directives regarding the monies of said Pension Plan, including but not limited to transfers, liquidations and payment of bills; and for other purposes.


GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leroy Thomas commented on the Disparity Study issue and addressed the need for small business opportunities in the Beall's Hill community.

Commissioner Al Tillman requested a Point of Personal Privilege and extended an invitation to a community forum for District Nine on Monday, February 24th, at 7:00 p.m. The forum will be held at the Macon Mall on the top level in front of the former Sears building. He stated Mayor Robert Reichert would also be in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M.


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Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission