The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on March 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 Gary Bechtel  
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger  
Commissioner Elaine Lucas  
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III  
Commissioner Ed DeFore  
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd  
Commissioner Virgil Watkins  
Commissioner Al Tillman

**Staff Present**

Dale Walker – County Manager  
Judd Drake – County Attorney  
Chris Johnson – Sr. Asst. County Attorney  
Crystal Jones – Asst. County Attorney  
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission  
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager - Infrastructure  
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Public Affairs  
Julie Moore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Strategic Planning & Budget  
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission  
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs

**Guests in Attendance**

Lonnie Miley – President SEIU  
Sarah Hunt  
Dr. Lindsay Holliday  
Adah Roberts  
Macon-Bibb County Public Works Employees  
Anthony Collins - Public Works  
Macon-Bibb County Purchasing Employees  
James Jackson  
Priscilla Brown

**News Media Present**

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  
Shonti Tager– FOX 24 WXGA  
Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA  
Sean Franklin – 41 WMGT

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

The prayer was rendered by Rev. Rex Odom of Heritage at Bass United Methodist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on March 4, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on March 4, 2014
C. Special Called Meeting on March 11, 2014

On motion of Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Elaine Lucas, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission, Regular, and Special Commission meetings held on March 4th and March 11th were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Rev. Rex Odom of Heritage at Bass United Methodist Church
Rev. Odom was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

Jim Grubiak – General Counsel – Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Dave Wills – Government Relations Manager – Association County Commissioners of Georgia

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chairman Gary Bechtel reported his committee met on Tuesday, March 11th and approved the following: a Resolution to obtain certification as a Workers Compensation Self-Insurer with the Georgia State Board of Workers’ Compensation; a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Reeves Construction for resurfacing and milling at Jeffersonville Road and Millerfield Road project, a Resolution recognizing the month of March 2014 as Purchasing Month; an Ordinance to appropriate $500,000 from Fund Balance to Superior Court to fund Special Litigation occurring prior to June 30, 2014; an Ordinance to appropriate $14,600 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to Clerk of Superior...
Court for salaries, dues, and travel; an Ordinance to appropriate $3,800 from FY 2014 Commissary Fund Balance to provide equipment for the jail; an Ordinance to appropriate $3,500 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to the State Court Clerk’s Office for temporary workers; an Ordinance to appropriate $1,245,881 from the 2012 SPLOST Fund Balance to account for activity in FY 2014; an Ordinance appropriating funds from the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority 2013 Bond Fund Balance to create FY 2014 Budget; an Ordinance to appropriate $13,000 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to the FY 2014 Airport Fund to provide for the match to secure an FAA Grant for taxiway lights; an Ordinance to appropriate $7,700 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to Facilities Management for uniform purchases; and an Ordinance to appropriate $2,250 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to Debt Service to pay taxable revenue on the 2007 UDA Bond for the Convention Center Hotel Project.

**Economic and Community Development Committee**

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported his committee met on Tuesday, March 11th and approved the following: a Resolution authorizing the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. to hold the Cherry Blossom Festival in Downtown Macon, Georgia on Saturday, March 29, 2014, and to permit festival-goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of downtown Macon; a Resolution to express support of the Alternative “B” Ocmulgee National Monument Boundary Expansion, and to endorse the Park and Preserve Concept to protect and eventually connect and consolidate land between Macon and Hawkinsville. He also stated his committee heard a presentation from the Economic and Community Development Department regarding the demolition of houses in Macon-Bibb County.

**Public Safety Committee**

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported his committee met on Tuesday, February 25th and approved an Ordinance to adopt business regulations regarding the operation of ambulance services. The Ordinance states an ambulance must provide equipment and personnel capable of providing advanced life-support on emergency calls. Chairman Shepherd stated Mid-Georgia Ambulance Service, the provider of ambulance service in our area, is fully aware of this Ordinance and is in agreement with it. He also stated that in another meeting, the creation of a Fire Civil Service Board, required by the Charter, was discussed. He stated he was working with the Fire Chief and other Fire Department personnel on this matter.

**Facilities and Engineering**

Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported his Committee met on Tuesday, March 11th and discussed the Beaumont Heights Subdivision roads. It has been determined the roads in this subdivision had never been accepted as County roads as the developer failed to complete the Punch List necessary for County acceptance. Commissioner Tillman further stated Mr. Fortson, County Engineer, stated he would like the opportunity to look at the costs associated with repairing the roads to bring them to County standards and report his findings back to the Commission. Once the costs are determined, it would then be determined what costs would be necessary to bill property owners. He stated it was the consensus of the Committee to allow Mr. Layson and Mr. Fortson to investigate the costs and report back to the Committee.
CONSENT AGENDA

A. Resolution recognizing the month of March 2014 as Purchasing Month


Purchasing Department employees Nyesha Daley, Wynetta Williams, Doreen Eidman, Delia Bridges, and Nan Tharpe were recognized and applauded.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution to obtain certification as a Workers’ Compensation Self-Insurer

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to obtain certification as a Workers’ Compensation Self-Insurer with the Georgia State Board of Workers’ Compensation; and for other purposes.


B. Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with Reeves Construction Company

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Reeves Construction Company for the Jeffersonville Road at Millerfield Road milling and resurfacing project, and for other purposes.


C. Ordinance appropriating funds to Superior Court for Special Litigation

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $500,000 from Fund Balance to Superior Court to fund Special Litigation occurring prior to June 30, 2014.

Discussion: Commissioner Tillman asked if the $500,000 was an open check or an amount in the event needed. Mayor Reichert and Commissioner Bechtel agreed this was an amount up to $500,000 for this Fiscal Year in case it was needed.

D. Ordinance appropriating funds to Clerk of Superior Court

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $14,600 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to Clerk of Superior Court to fund salary, dues, and travel.

Discussion: Commissioner Tillman asked for clarification on the funds use and wanted to emphasize that they were not for salary increases. Mayor Reichert and Commissioner Bechtel agreed these were funds not expended during the first six months of the budget last year and were being rolled over to the second six months of the budget of this fiscal year.


E. Ordinance appropriating funds to provide equipment for the jail

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $3,800 from FY 2014 Commissary Fund Balance to provide equipment for the jail.


F. Ordinance appropriating funds to State Court Clerk’s Office

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $3,500 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to State Court Clerk’s Office for temporary workers.


G. Ordinance appropriating funds from 2012 SPLOST Fund

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $1,245,881 from 2012 SPLOST Fund Balance to account for activity in FY 2014.


H. Ordinance appropriating funds from Urban Development Authority 2013 Bond Fund

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate (See attached Exhibit “A”) from MBC-UDA
2013 Bond Fund Balance to create FY 2014 Budget.

Approval by Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman. Mayor Pro Tem Bivins voted no. The vote was 8-1.

I. Ordinance appropriating funds to FY 2014 Airport Fund
   
   **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $13,000 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to the FY 2014 Airport Fund to provide for the match amount to secure an FAA Grant for “Taxiway Lights.”


J. Ordinance appropriating funds to Facilities Management
   
   **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $7,700 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to Facilities Management to provide for uniform purchases.


K. Ordinance appropriating funds to Debt Service to pay taxable revenue

   **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $2,250 from FY 2014 General Fund Balance to Debt Service to pay taxable revenue on the 2007 UDA Bond (Convention Center Hotel Project)


L. Resolution expressing support of the Alternative “B” Ocmulgee National Monument Boundary Expansion

   **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to express support of the Alternative “B” Ocmulgee National Monument Boundary Expansion, and to endorse the Park and Preserve Concept to protect and eventually connect and consolidate lands between Macon and Hawkinsville.

M. Resolution regarding the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in Downtown Macon

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. to hold the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in Downtown Macon, Georgia, on Saturday, March 29, 2014; to permit festival-goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of downtown Macon; and for other purposes.


N. Ordinance adopting business regulations regarding the operation of Ambulance Services

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt business regulations regarding the operation of ambulance services; to provide an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.


NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution regarding an Anti-Salvaging Policy

- Referred to Facilities and Engineering Committee

B. Resolution making an appointment to the Urban Development Authority

- Referred to Economic and Community Development Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lonnie Miley, SEIU President – spoke in support of the appointment of Public Works Director, Richard Powell, as the new Public Works Director in the upcoming Departmental Directors selection process.

Sarah Hunt - expressed concern on the recent appointment made to the Macon-Bibb County Planning and Zoning Commission. She also stated drainage problems at Overcoming Church of God in Christ needed to be addressed and corrected. Ms. Hunt stated it would be beneficial to have information on the Affordable Care Act on the Commissions’ website and other media outlets to inform citizens of what’s available to them. She also stated scammers were putting
out erroneous information on the Affordable Care Act to take advantage of people on the income level qualifying them for coverage.

Rev. James Jackson and Priscilla Brown – asked for assistance in cleaning and preventing dumping at 2153 and 2131 Beech Avenue.

Anthony Collins – expressed his concern for Public Works employees and their families if the Public Works Department was privatized. Mr. Collins also expressed support for Richard Powell to be appointed as the new Public Works Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion duly made and seconded, unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.


Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission