MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
March 3, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on March 3, 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 Mallory Jones
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.

Commission Members Absent
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present:
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones - Sr. Asst. County Attorney
Opie Bowen - Asst. County Attorney
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs
Trae McCombs – Public Affairs
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Infrastructure)
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Operations)
Jean S. Howard – Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Kevin Barkley – Director of Solid Waste

Guests in Attendance
June Parker, Executive Director - Macon Housing Authority
News Media Present
Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Kristen Swilley – 13 WMAZ
Malcolm Johnson – WGXA FOX 24
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 Commissioner Larry Schlesinger.

Mayor Reichert recognized Rev. Camile Holmes of Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church, who had been invited to render the prayer for tonight’s meeting but was delayed due to heavy traffic coming from Atlanta. Mayor Reichert asked Rev. Holmes if he would like to make any remarks. Rev. Holmes expressed his apology for his late arrival and brought greetings and thanks to the Mayor and Commissioners for the opportunity to address the Commission. He
also expressed appreciation for the many wonderful endeavors currently taking place in Macon-Bibb County.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS Students Rosa Martinez of Rutland High School and Alexandra Woodford of Mount de Sales Academy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on February 17, 2015
B. Regular Commission Meeting on February 17, 2015

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Elaine Lucas, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on February 17, 2015 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Mayor Reichert and Commissioner Lucas invited all women in attendance to join them at the podium for the presentation of the Proclamation recognizing March as “Women’s History Month”. Commissioner Lucas thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation and expressed appreciation to all women for the work they have done to help the community while still maintaining a successful home life.

Mayor Reichert asked and received consent to move the Resolution recognizing the month of March 2015 as “Women’s History Month” from Old Business

Mayor Reichert asked County Clerk Jean Howard to read the Resolution.

Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to recognize the month of March 2015 as Women’s History Month; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Ryan stated his concerns about the need and construction of the new pedestrian bridge at Mercer University Drive.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

**Operations and Finance Committee**

Committee Chair Gary Bechtel reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 and reported/recommended approval of the following:

- Approved Agreement with Middle Georgia Regional Commission to update EMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan in the amount of $18,000 to be paid from Hazard Mitigation Award Funds.
- The Lease-Purchase Agreement with Yancey Brother for Caterpillar Landfill Compactor for $714,848 was approved. The contract has a buy back clause.
- The Agreement with Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc for Potential Development of 682 Cherry Street was approved. The work will be done in four phases with the Commission approving each phase.
- The Agreement to purchase interior furnishings in the amount of $71,018.33 from Commercial Furnishings for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission was approved.
- The Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances to provide an exception for the sale of distilled spirit, wine and malt beverages sold on the premises in the downtown district was approved.
- The resolution adopting the International Property Maintenance Code for the Department of Business and Development Services was approved.
- The Retirement of Roger Duncan Matthews with ten years and six months of service was approved.

**Economic and Community Development Committee**

Committee Vice Chairman Elaine Lucas reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

- The Resolution authorizing the Macon Tracks Running club to improve a County owned lot at the intersection of Old Forsyth Road and Rivoli Drive for the purpose of enhancing the lot’s use for parking was approved.
- The Resolution to affirm the participation of Macon-Bibb County in the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, to accept the Baldwin county Board of Commissioners’ petition to join the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority,
to affirm Macon-Bibb County’s member representatives’ appointment and tenure to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority was approved.

- The proclamation declaring March as “Women’s History Month” was approved.

Public Safety Committee

No Report – The Committee did not meet.

Facilities and Engineering Committee

No Report – The Committee did not meet.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for RG Food Mart, LLC d/b/a Lucky Food Mart located at 807 Main Street, Macon, GA 31217

B. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Dixon’s Convenience Store located at 4480 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA 31210

C. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Jay Mangal d/b/a Holiday Food #3 located at 7104 Houston Road, Macon, GA 31216

D. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Chang’s located at 885 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Macon, GA 31201

E. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Parish on Cherry Street located at 580 Cherry Street, Macon, GA 31201

F. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for South Americans LLC d/b/a Food Mart Broadway, Macon, GA 31201

**ACTION:**


OLD BUSINESS

A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to facilitate the update of the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Plan in the amount of $18,000 to be paid from Hazard Mitigation Award funds.

- *Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission*
authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to facilitate the update of the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan in the amount of $18,000 to be paid from Hazard Mitigation Award Funds; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


B. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a lease-purchase agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Yancey Brothers Company for a Caterpillar Landfill Compactor for $714,848 ($83,594.45 annually for five years) from Solid Waste Department funds

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute a Lease–Purchase Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Yancey Brothers Company for a Caterpillar Landfill Compactor for $714,848.00 ($83,594.45 annually for five years); from Solid Waste Department funds; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


C. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc. for real estate services related to the potential development of the Government Center Annex building located at 682 Cherry Street to be paid from Fund Balance

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc. for real estate services related to the potential development of the Government Center Annex building located at 682 Cherry Street to be paid from Fund Balance; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


D. A Resolution to approve the selection of Commercial Furnishings as the supplier of interior furnishings for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in the amount of $71,018.33; authorize the Mayor to execute the Purchase Agreement to be paid from Bond Funds
• **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to approve the selection of Commercial Furnishings as the supplier of interior furnishings for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in the amount of seventy-one thousand eighteen and 33/100 dollars ($71,018.33); authorize the Mayor to execute the Purchase Agreement to be paid from Bond Funds; 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, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.**

E. An Ordinance amending Article VI of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances to provide an exception for the sale of distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages sold for consumption on the premises in the Downtown District

• **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission amending Article VI of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances of the Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to provide an exception for the sale of distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages sold for consumption on the premises in the Downtown District; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**

• **Approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr.**

F. A Resolution adopting the use and enforcement of the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code and Georgia State amendments to the International Property Maintenance Code (2012 Edition) by the Department of Business and Development Services

• **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission adopting the use and enforcement of the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code and Georgia State amendments to the International Property Maintenance Code (2012 Edition) by the Department of Business and Development Services; 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, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.**

G. Approval of the Retirement of Deputy Roger Duncan Matthews retiring with ten years and six months service with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office effective March 1, 2015

• **Clerk read by caption:** Approval of the Retirement of Deputy Roger Duncan Matthews retiring with ten years and six months service with the Bibb County
Sheriff’s Office effective March 1, 2015 and for other purposes.

ACTION:


H. A Resolution authorizing the Macon Tracks Running Club to improve a County owned lot at the intersection of Old Forsyth Road and Rivoli Drive for the purposes of enhancing the lot's use for parking.

At the request of the sponsor, Commissioner Jones, the Resolution was referred back to the Economic Community Development Committee to allow for further community input and discussion.

I. A Resolution to affirm the participation of Macon-Bibb County in the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, to accept the Baldwin County Board of Commissioner's petition to join the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, to affirm Macon-Bibb County’s member representatives’ appointment and tenure to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to affirm the participation of Macon-Bibb County in the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, to accept the Baldwin County Board of Commissioner’s petition to join the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, to affirm Macon-Bibb County’s member representatives’ appointment and tenure to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority; and for such other related purposes.

ACTION:


J. A Resolution to recognize the month of March as Women's History Month

- The Resolution was moved to Invited Guests for action during the Proclamation presentation recognizing March as “Women’s History Month”

K. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Mobile Data Terminal Grant and the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement in the amount of $10,000 awarded to the Sheriff's Office from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the Mobile Data Terminal Grant and execution of the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement in the amount of $10,000 awarded to the Sheriff's Office from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police; 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, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.**

L. Resolution approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Piedmont Construction Group to provide Construction Management (at risk) services for the Signature Pedestrian Bridge at Mercer University Drive using Second Street TAD Bond Funds up to the budgeted amount of $2,800,000

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Piedmont Construction Group to provide Construction Management (at risk) services for the Signature Pedestrian Bridge at Mercer University Drive using Second Street TAD Bond Funds up to the budgeted amount of $2,800,000; 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, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

The following item was referred to the Operations and Finance Committee:

A. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend the Macon-Bibb County Government Policies and Procedures Manual's Section 8: Leave, by adding Section 8.09 Macon-Bibb County Fire Department - Administrative Leave

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Donnie Hooker spoke on his concerns regarding the possibility of raising taxes one mill.

Mr. John Higginson spoke on the drainage problems at the Martha Bowman Church parsonage. Mayor Reichert stated that he would refer the drainage issue to the next Facilities and Engineering Committee meeting.

Sarah Hunt read a letter from her husband, Deacon Richard Hunt, asking that 3rd Street be maintained to prevent water coming into the basement of his church. He would also like to see the name of the street changed to Bishop Cotton Way.

Patricia Faye Ivy Brown spoke on her need for freedom.
William Perry, Common Cause for Georgia, announced that Common Cause will be in Macon on April 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to ask for support to reform the State Ethics Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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


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Jean S. Howard  
Clerk of Commission