The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on March 4, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. in the Large Conference Room 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**

Judd Drake – County Attorney  
Crystal Jones – Asst. County Attorney  
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission  
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager (Infrastructure)  
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Operations)  
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  
Sam Henderson – Exec. Asst. to Board of Commissioners  

**Guests/Visitors**

None  

**News Media Present**

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  

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

Mayor Reichert stated he had been asked by the County Attorney, Judd Drake, to add an item to tonight's Agenda for informational purposes in regards to litigation involving the Board of Elections.

On Motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the addition of the litigation item to tonight’s agenda was approved.


Attorney Drake distributed and read a letter addressed to Mayor Reichert from Steve Allen, Vice-Chair of the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections. In the letter, Mr. Allen requests, pursuant to Section 18-153 of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances, defense by attorney
in the Civil Action filed against him in his capacity as a member of the Board of Elections by the Bibb County Democratic Party. The Civil Suit contends that Mr. Allen is not properly qualified to serve as a member of the Board of Elections. Attorney Drake cited the Macon-Bibb County Statute requiring legal assistance be provided for Mr. Allen. He stated he would be selecting an attorney he normally works with to provide legal assistance to Mr. Allen.

The Mayor reviewed the agenda items for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 P.M., and stated that all items under New Business would be referred to a committee.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**PRAYER** – Dr. I. Edwin Mack – Unionville Baptist Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Pre-Commission Meeting on February 18, 2014
- B. Regular Commission Meeting on February 18, 2014

**INVITED GUESTS**

Dr. I. Edwin Mack – Unionville Baptist Church

Mayor Reichert stated it was his intent to recognize and present the March 2014 Women’s History Month Resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Lucas, and listed under the Consent Agenda, and that the approval of the Resolution would be done at the time of presentation.

It was decided that Commissioner Lucas, along with any female County employees and/or guests present at tonight’s meeting, would be recognized by way of the Resolution by Mayor Reichert.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS**

Mayor Reichert asked Committee Chairs to give their Committee reports.

- A. Operations and Finance
- B. Economic and Community Development
- C. Public Safety
- D. Facilities and Engineering
CONSENT AGENDA

A. A Resolution recognizing March 2014 as Women’s History Month was moved to Invited Guests for adoption at tonight’s meeting.

B. New 2014 Alcoholic Beverage License for Raceway located at 5127 Mercer University Drive.

C. New 2014 Alcoholic Beverage License for Texaco located at 4476 Ocmulgee East Boulevard.

Mayor Reichert stated the two new Alcoholic Beverage Licenses had gone through the proper approval channels to be approved by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Reichert stated he placed the Resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Tillman, to rename the gym at Freedom Park in honor of Bishop Frank Ray as the first item to be acted on at tonight’s meeting and prior to the policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities and streets.

A. Resolution to rename Freedom Park Gym in honor of Bishop Frank Ray

B. Resolution regarding an RFQ for a consultant to do a Needs Analysis for a Disparity Study

C. Resolution regarding the hiring of a Director of the Office of Small Business Affairs

D. Resolution for Public Safety SPLOST-funded emergency equipment for Sheriff’s Department vehicles

E. Ordinance to fund position of Assistant Solicitor

F. Ordinance regarding improvements at Lake Tobesofkee

G. Ordinance to fund temporary Assistant Engineer position

H. Ordinance to fund salaries and benefits for the Director of Small Business Affairs (Designated in Consolidation Bill)

I. Ordinance to transfer funds from E-911 to Sheriff’s Department

J. Ordinance to transfer funds from Commissary Funds to replace air handlers in the jail

K. Ordinance to transfer funds from Fund Balance to Bowden Golf Course for Improvements

L. Resolution to purchase ten (10) lots and establish Oak Haven Parking using CDBG Funds
M. Resolution to support submission of a GDOT Gateway Grant for Pio Nono/Rocky Creek Intersection of I-75

N. Resolution for the construction of the Macon-Bibb County Animal Shelter

O. Resolution to adopt a policy naming and renaming parks, facilities and streets owned by Macon-Bibb County

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution for Self-Insured Certification for Workers Compensation
   To Be Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

B. Ordinance regarding the operation of Ambulance Services
   To Be Referred To: Public Safety Committee

C. Ordinance to amend FY 14 Parks and Recreation Budget for Freedom Park
   To Be Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

D. Resolution streets and drainage systems in Beaumont Heights Subdivision
   To Be Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee

E. Resolution regarding the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in Downtown Macon
   To Be Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

Mayor Reichert stated he would be referring by letter the establishment of a Civil Service Board for the Fire Department to the Public Safety Committee.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.