The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on March 4, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

**Commission Members Present**

Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Al Tillman

**Staff Present**

Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Asst. County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager - Facilities & Engineering
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
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs

**Call to Order**

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

**Prayer**

The prayer was rendered by Dr. I. Edwin Mack of 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

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Elaine Lucas, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on February 18th were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Dr. I. Edwin Mack of Unionville Baptist Church
Dr. Mack was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

Former Macon City Councilman Lonnie Miley
Mr. Miley introduced himself as the President of the SEIU and related his experience with the Public Works Department and its employees. He implored the Commission to consider the service and value of the Public Works employees when formulating the upcoming budget. He urged the Commission not to balance the budget at the expense of these employees. He also spoke against privatization of Public Works and emphasized the Public Works Department could generate revenue by servicing the entire Macon-Bibb County area; thereby, creating revenue for the landfill. Mr. Miley presented the Commission with a report for the 2014 Fiscal Year that included a master plan for solid waste disposal, managing the collection and disposal of Bibb County residential solid waste, and a Justification for Consolidation Cost in 2014 Budget analysis chart. Mr. Miley ended by saying, “We talk about having a Class One Fire Department; we have always had a Class One Public Works Department.”

Donna Lee and Tracey Willis Kight – American Red Cross
Commissioner Virgil Watkins presented a Proclamation proclaiming March as American Red Cross Month to Tracey Kight and Donna Lee on behalf of the Mayor and Commissioners. Commissioner Watkins stated he had participated in a neighborhood canvassing project on Saturday, March 1st where neighborhoods and residences, identified by the Fire Department as high risk, were checked for smoke detectors and fire alarms. He stated Macon-Bibb County had 14 fire deaths in 2013 which was the highest number fire deaths in the state of Georgia and has had one recent fire death in 2014. Commissioner Watkins thanked the American Red Cross and its volunteers for the many community services they provide during disasters and other community crises.

Red Cross Director Tracey Kight stated the month of March was used to help the community prevent, prepare, and respond to disasters. She thanked Mayor Reichert, Commissioners, and all Central Georgians for their support of the Red Cross. She stated this month marks the 100th year the American Red Cross has provided life-saving and community services to Central Georgia.

Donna Lee thanked Commissioner Watkins for his participation in Saturday’s neighborhood
canvassing event. She stated 636 homes were visited by foot which was the largest canvassing event that has ever been done in the state of Georgia. She also stated that for the first time, they were collaborating with the Director of the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency on local sheltering events that have proven to be cost-effective in meeting the needs of residents. She expressed the need for volunteers and donations to continue the mission of the American Red Cross.

Women’s History Month
Mayor Reichert asked and received unanimous consent to move from the Consent Agenda and present the Resolution recognizing March 2014 as Women’s History Month. The Resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Elaine Lucas. Mayor Reichert presented the Resolution, recognizing the many contributions of women to the State of Georgia, Macon-Bibb County and the nation, to Commissioner Lucas and several other women who were present at tonight’s meeting. The Mayor further thanked women for all they have done and continue to do.


PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

A. Adrian Harmon urged Commissioners to approve the two Resolutions on tonight’s agenda regarding the RFQ for a consultant to do the needs analysis for a Disparity Study and the hiring of a Director of the Office of Small Business Affairs. Mr. Harmon stated he was facing the same problems his father experienced 30 years ago as a contractor in obtaining work on Macon and Bibb County projects. He felt the same contractors, general contractors, and sub-contractors were continuing to receive all contracts. Mr. Harmon reiterated he as well as other African-American and minority contractors wanted to be given a fair chance in the contract letting process. He stated the two Resolutions under consideration would help advance opportunities for African-American and minority contractors in the community enabling them to grow, build capacity, and earn income.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chairman Gary Bechtel reported his committee met on Tuesday, February 25th and approved ten items for tonight’s agenda for approval: A Resolution for an RFQ to do need analysis for a Disparity Study; a Resolution to hire a Director for the Office of Small Business Affairs; a request from Sheriff Davis to accept Macon Communications proposal for emergency equipment for $87,089; an Ordinance to fund the position of Assistant Solicitor for $35,000; an Ordinance to appropriate $15,000 from the Fund Balance to improve the shoreline at Lake Tobesofkee. This is an area on Mosely Dixon Road where a memorial has been laid to honor a firefighter who gave his life saving his two children and another child; an Ordinance to appropriate $44,000 from Fund Balance Engineering to fund temporary Assistant Engineer position; an Ordinance to appropriate $25,000 from Fund Balance to fund salaries and benefits for the Director of Small Business Affairs; an Ordinance to transfer $311,479 from E-911 to the Sheriff’s Department to fund salaries and benefits for communication positions which were placed in the E-911 budget, but remained
in the Sheriff’s Department; an Ordinance to transfer $182,217 from the Commissary Fund to the General Fund to replace five air handlers in the jail; and an Ordinance to transfer $30,000 from the Fund Balance to Bowden Golf Course to fund the repair of golf carts.

**Economic and Community Development Committee**

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported his committee met on Tuesday, February 25th and approved a Resolution approving the purchase agreement with Steven Rickman to purchase ten contiguous lots on Oak Haven Avenue, English Avenue, and Mailey Avenue that are located behind the Kroger on Pio Nono for $177,000 using Community Development Block Grant funds for the establishment a public park to be known as Oak Haven Park; authorized the submission of a Gateway Grant application to obtain funds for the mowing and maintenance of roadside areas and median strips located within Georgia Department of Transportation’s Right-of-Way. He announced that at the next meeting on March 11th, the committee will be given an update on the demolition schedule for houses throughout Bibb County.

**Public Safety Committee**

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported his committee met on Tuesday, February 25th and received an update from the County Attorney’s office regarding EMT’s and Paramedics in ambulances, and approved a contract with International City Builders for the construction of the new animal welfare center.

**Facilities and Engineering**

Committee Vice-Chair Mallory Jones stated he chaired the committee meeting on Tuesday, February 25th due to the absence of Chairman Tillman who was in Atlanta with Leadership Macon. The committee amended the policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities, and streets. The amended policy states all requests for the naming or renaming of parks, facilities, and streets owned by Macon-Bibb County, if named for an individual, must have the written consent of the personal representative of the estate, and for a criminal background check of the individual for whom the park, facility, or street is to be named prior to any consideration by the Facilities and Engineering Committee. The Sheriff’s Department will be requested to run the background check and report findings to the committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Resolution recognizing the month of March 2014 as Women’s History Month. On the request of Mayor Reichert and by unanimous consent, this item was moved to the Invited Guests section of tonight’s Agenda.

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

- On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the above stated Alcoholic Beverage License was approved.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine...
Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

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

- On motion of Commissioner Elaine Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the above stated Alcoholic Beverage License was approved.


OLD BUSINESS

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

Mayor Reichert stated this Resolution was on a previous committee agenda and a motion was made by Commissioner Tillman and carried to bring it forward to this meeting.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to rename the gym at Freedom Park in honor of Bishop Frank Ray; and for other purposes.

- On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was adopted.

Discussion: Commissioner Tillman stated it was fitting to honor Bishop Frank Ray by naming the boxing facility inside Freedom Park Gym in his honor. He stated Bishop Ray was the founder of the Middle Georgia Boxing Association, and that he has been responsible for producing World Boxing Champions for Macon and Middle Georgia. He emphasized the new boxing facility inside the gym will be named for Bishop Ray and his name would not be on the outside of the building.


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

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to request that Macon-Bibb County issues a Request for Qualifications for consulting services to analyze existing procurement practices to determine if a Disparity Study may be necessary; and for other purposes.

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

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to request that Macon-Bibb County began the process of funding and hiring a Director of the Office 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 that Minority and Small Business Enterprises are being provided meaningful opportunities to contract with Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.


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

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Macon Communications, Inc. for Public Safety SPLOST-funded emergency equipment necessary for equipping Sheriff’s Department vehicles for a total of $87,089.00; and for other purposes.


E. Ordinance to fund position of Assistant Solicitor

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $35,000 from Fund Balance to the State Court Solicitor to fund the position of Assistant Solicitor as approved prior to Consolidation.


F. Ordinance regarding improvements at Lake Tobesofkee

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $15,000 from Fund Balance to Lake Tobesofkee to improve the shoreline adjacent to the public fishing area as approved prior to Consolidation.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine
Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

G. Ordinance to fund temporary Assistant Engineer position

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $44,000 from Fund Balance to Engineering to fund temporary employee serving as Assistant Engineer as approved prior to Consolidation.


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

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $25,000 from Fund Balance to fund salaries and benefits for the remainder of 2014 for the Director of Small Business Affairs as described by the Charter.


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

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to transfer $311,479 from E-911 to Sheriff’s Department to fund salaries and benefits for communications positions which we placed in E-911 Budget but remain in the Sheriff’s Department.


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

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to transfer $182,217 from Commissary Fund to General Fund to replace five air handlers in the jail.


K. Ordinance to transfer funds from Fund Balance to Bowden Golf Course for Improvements
• Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $30,000 from Fund Balance to Bowden Golf Course to fund the repair of golf carts.


L. Resolution to purchase ten (10) lots and establish Oak Haven Park using CDBG funds

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving an agreement with Steven J. Rickman to purchase ten contiguous lots within the border of Oak Haven Avenue, English Avenue, and Mailey Avenue for $177,000.00 using Community Development Block Grant funds and approving the establishment of a public park on said property to be known as Oak Haven Park; and for other purposes.


M. Resolution to support submission of a grant application for a Georgia Department of Transportation Gateway Grant for Pio Nono/Rocky Creek Intersection of I-75

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the submission of Gateway Grant to obtain funds for the mowing and maintenance of roadside areas and median strips located within the Georgia Department of Transportation Right-of-Way; and for other purposes.


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

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the construction of the animal shelter for Macon-Bibb County Animal Welfare Department, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Defore expressed his concern on the relocation of the animal shelter from downtown due to the distance to the new location from the downtown area.

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

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt a policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities, and streets owned by Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas invited all Commissioners to join as co-sponsors on the Resolution. She expressed appreciation to the Legal Department in putting together this legislation and addressing all concerns. Commissioner Lucas stated two Resolutions would be forthcoming to name the gym at Rosa Jackson Center in honor of former City Councilwoman Delores Brooks, and a request from St. Luke Baptist Church to rename Haywood Road in honor of the late Rev. Marshall Stenson. She expressed hope that consideration would be given to the new policy’s naming and renaming for parks, facilities, and streets exception clause when these requests are made.


NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution for Self-Insured Certification for Workers Compensation Insurance

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

- Referred to Operations and Finance Committee

B. Ordinance regarding the operation of Ambulance Services in Macon-Bibb County

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

- Referred to Public Safety Committee

C. Ordinance to amend FY 14 Parks and Recreation Budget for Freedom Park

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend the FY 2014 Parks and Recreation budget line item for Freedom Park be supplemented by adding $16,000 to fund four (4) part time boxing coaches, for a total of in additional funding for the remainder of FY 2014; and for other lawful purposes.
• Referred to Operations and Finance Committee

D. Resolution regarding streets and drainage systems in Beaumont Heights Subdivision

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission accepting the dedication of the streets and drainage systems located within the streets of the Beaumont Heights Subdivision and to declare that those streets shall be open for public use and shall be maintained by Macon-Bibb County; and for other lawful purposes.

• Referred to Facilities and Engineering Committee

E. 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 22, 2014; to permit festival-goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of Downtown Macon; and for other lawful purposes.

• Referred to Economic and Community Development Committee

Mayor Reichert stated a Civil Service Board Resolution for the Fire Department will be referred to committee by letter for study and evaluation.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion by Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 P.M.
