The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on April 1, 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
Crystal Jones – Asst. County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager - Infrastructure
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Public Affairs
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs
Don Druitt – Director of Emergency Management
Tom Buttram – Director of Business Development Services
Ben Hubbard – Director of Human Resources
Steve Lawson – Director of Parks and Beautification
Wanzina Jackson – Manager of Economic and Community Development
Doc Dougherty – Director of Recreation
Rodney Roberson – Asst. Director of Emergency Management
Christy Iuliucci – Finance Director
Nyesha Daley – Purchasing
Terry Bizzell
Kevin Barkley

**Guests in Attendance**

Hal Baskin
Connie Broun
Dr. Lindsay Holliday
Adah Roberts
Sheriff David Davis
Anthony Collins - Public Works

**News Media Present**

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Shonti Tager – FOX 24 WXGA
Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA
Sean Franklin – 41 WMGT
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ
CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert.

PRAYER
The prayer was rendered by Rev. Anthony Corbett of Lundy Chapel Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. Pre-Commission Meeting on March 18, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on March 18, 2014

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 March 18th were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS
Rev. Anthony Corbett of Lundy Chapel Baptist Church
Rev. Corbett was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

Macon-Bibb County Department Head Appointees

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS
None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee
Mayor Reichert reported the committee met on Tuesday, March 25th, but did not have a quorum; therefore, an official meeting could not be held. The Mayor stated the Committee of the Whole was convened to hear information on three items that will be discussed later on tonight’s agenda.
Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Vice-Chairman Al Tillman reported he chaired the committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 25th in the absence of Chairman Schlesinger. He reported the Committee recommended approval of a Resolution appointing Kay Gerhardt to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority. Commissioner Tillman stated Ms. Gerhardt has served on the Urban Development Authority for two years filling the un-expired term of a member who moved out of town.

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported his committee met on Tuesday, March 25th and stated they were still in the investigative process on the Fire Department Civil Service Board and was also waiting on legal language to come back. He stated he was still meeting with firemen with a follow-up meeting with the Fire Chief after that was completed. He anticipated having a report at the next committee meeting.

Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported his Committee met on Tuesday, March 25th and approved a Resolution to amend the Macon-Bibb County Government Policy and Procedures manual to add an Anti-Salvaging policy.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Authorization for Mayor to name representatives for General Obligation or Revenue Bond Funds

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, to authorize the Mayor to appoint County representatives or project superintendents, City representatives or project superintendents, custodians of funds, persons authorized to make investments, and other persons necessary to act on behalf of Macon-Bibb County with regard to (A) all outstanding General Obligation Bonds issued by Bibb County or the City of Macon, (B) all Revenue Bonds of any public authority the payment of which is secured by an intergovernmental contract which obligated the City of Macon or Bibb County to provide money for the payment of such bonds or required the City of Macon or Bibb County to authorize the expenditure of bond proceeds or the investment of funds, (C) all lease or lease purchase agreements between the City of Macon or Bibb County and the Georgia Municipal Association, (D) all intergovernmental contracts, notes or obligations; and for other purposes.

- On motion of Commissioner Gary Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner
Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved.


B. Resolution granting approval to draw up to $417,500 by UDC for the Lamar Drugstore property

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving a request by Urban Development Concepts, LLC to draw up to $417,500 in additional bond funds from $5,000,000 Development Authority of Bibb County Revenue Bonds (Newtown Macon/Urban Development Concepts Project) Series 2012 for pre-construction design and engineering expenses related to the renovation of the former Lamar Drugstore property located at 552-580 Cherry Street for a residential and mixed-use development; and for other purposes.

- On motion of Commissioner Gary Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas stated a need, for informational purposes, to receive regular and frequent updates, and any audit reports from the different groups doing business on behalf of Macon-Bibb County. Mayor Reichert stated he was sure they would appreciate the opportunity to provide frequent updates and he would take this up with Newtown Macon and Urban Development Concepts to incorporate this going forth.


C. Ordinance to provide local preference for Procurement Services

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend Sec. 19-10 (B) of the Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County, Georgia, so as to provide a local preference in the procurement of consulting services to qualified Macon-Bibb County persons, firms, or corporations; to provide an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

- On motion of Commissioner Gary Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, carried unanimously, the above stated Ordinance was approved.

D. Resolution making an appointment to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission appointing Kay Gerhardt to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas stated she initially was not going to support the appointment, but will after receiving assurances that updates would be forthcoming from the Urban Development Authority and other entities receiving bond funds and other monies for projects on behalf of Macon-Bibb County. She especially wanted information on the use of $300,000 bond funds and other allocated monies for use on the Eastside of town, and projected projects for District 3. Commissioner Lucas also asked the Mayor for information on upcoming board appointments in order to provide assistance in suggesting individuals to fill the positions.


E. Resolution regarding an Anti-Salvaging Policy

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend the Macon-Bibb County Government Policies and Procedures Manual so as to add an Anti-Salvaging policy; and for other purposes.


F. Ordinance to adopt the organizational chart

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend the Macon-Bibb County Government personnel Policies and Procedures Manual by approving and adopting an organizational chart for Macon-Bibb County; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

Approval by Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, and Al Tillman.

Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Elaine Lucas, and Virgil Watkins, Jr. voted No.

G. Confirmation of Department Heads

- Commissioner Scotty Shepherd motioned to amend the Resolution to remove the Animal Welfare Director’s position from the appointment list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Elaine Lucas.
Approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Elaine Lucas, Scotty Shepherd, Ed DeFore, Gary Bechtel, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.

Commissioners Mallory Jones, III, Larry Schlesinger, and Al Tillman voted No.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving and confirming the Mayor’s appointment of department heads for Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.

- Mayor Reichert stated by a 6 - 3 vote the Resolution was amended to delete the Director of Animal Welfare from the list of positions to be confirmed tonight.

Commissioner Watkins motioned to amend the Resolution to remove the Public Work’s Director’s position from the appointment list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucas.

Approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Elaine Lucas, Ed DeFore, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.

Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, and Al Tillman voted No. The amendment failed by a 5 – 4 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance for Franchise to Tri-County EMC

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission granting a franchise to Tri-County EMC; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

- Referred to Operations and Finance Committee

B. Ordinance for Franchise to Flint Electric Membership Cooperation

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission granting a franchise to Flint Electric Membership Corporation; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

- Referred to Operations and Finance Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anthony Collins stated he wanted to publicly thank Richard Powell for being a good Public Works’ Director and for his assistance to all Public Works employees.
Mr. Collins expressed a need to get a hard copy of the new employee handbook he and others had signed up for in addition to the disk that has been provided to employees. He also spoke of a need to have a portal for Public Works employees, enabling them to obtain paychecks and other documents that are not readily accessible due to clerical assistance availability and the lack of employees not having access to computers. Mayor Reichert stated he would look into the matter.

Janet Kilgore stated she had appealed to Planning and Zoning, and ECD, and other entities for assistance with a non-compliant vertical structure being built by her neighbor at 3217 Riley Avenue. She cited completion dates that have not been met since the start of the structure. Ms. Kilgore appealed for assistance in getting this matter resolved. Mayor Reichert stated the matter would be directed to the Department of Business Development for further analysis.

Dr. Lindsay Holliday – Dr. Holliday stated he supported Ms. Kilgore’s plight and stated his concern about the structure and its proximity to Ms. Kilgore’s property. Dr. Holliday further stated the road work on Forest Hill Road had begun at the start of the Cherry Blossom Festival and the corresponding cherry trees that were cut during this period. He suggested that Forest Hill Road be restriped to create a bikeway in honor of Major Wallace Hogan, who grew up on Forest Hill and lost his life at the Pentagon on 911. Dr. Holliday stated the MATS (Macon Area Transportation Study) group needed more oversight and that they should have a better vision for Macon-Bibb County and to have more trees and less concrete to attract more people to Macon-Bibb County. He also had suggestions for Macon-Bibb County to partner with Robins Air Force Base in utilizing their runways, as is presently done in Charleston, South Carolina, thereby, saving money by not having to expand the runways at the Macon Airport.

REQUESTED POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Tillman a stated he had visited Bishop Frank Ray yesterday in the hospital and asked for prayers for his recovery. The Boxing Club inside the Freedom Park Gym was named in Bishop Ray’s honor.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas announced Senator David Lucas was being honored for having served 40 years as an elected official on Thursday, April 3rd at the Douglass Theatre. She extended an invitation to join in honoring him at this event.

Commissioner Lucas also announced the Al Lucas Memorial Scholarship fund-raiser honoring outstanding student/athletes who will be recognized and honored with scholarships at the Sports Hall of Fame on April 30th. Several deserving students have been awarded scholarships for the last eight years. She invited everyone to support the scholarship fund by attending the event and by making a contribution to the Community Foundation who handles all scholarship funds.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion by Commissioner Shepherd, and seconded by Commissioner Jones, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.
