MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
July 7, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on July 7, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

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

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Elaine Lucas

Staff Present

Dale Walker – County Manager
Charles Coney – Asst. County Manager
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. Public Affairs
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney
Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney
Jean S. Howard – Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Asst. Clerk of Commission
James Bumpus, Exec. Dir. Small Business Affairs

Guests in Attendance

June Parker - Executive Director
Macon Housing Authority
Louie Hargrove - Fire Civil Service Board
Mary H. Wimberly - Fire Civil Service Board
Former Bd. of Ed. Member - J. C. Postell

News Media Present

Phillip Ramati – The Telegraph
Stanley Dunlap – The Telegraph
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ
Noell Saunders – WGXA Fox 24
Eric Mock – WGXA FOX 24

CALLED TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Dr. James Bumpus, Executive Director of the Macon-Bibb County Small Business Affairs Office.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District 6 Commissioner Ed DeFore.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on June 16, 2015
B. Regular Commission Meeting on June 16, 2015

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on June 16, 2015 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

As there were no Invited Guests, Mayor Reichert recognized the presence of June Parker, Executive Director of the Macon Housing Authority; former Bibb School Board member J. C. Postell; and Louie Hargrove and Mary Hicks Wimberly, members of the Fire Civil Service Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Gary Bechtel reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on June 23, 2015 and considered and/or approved the following action:

- An agreement with River Edge Behavioral Health to appropriate $403,750 in the FY 16 Budget to provide services to mentally ill and chemical dependent citizens

- An agreement with Navicent Health in the amount of $2,500 per year to allow Navicent Health to install a pneumatic tube system under County owned right-of-way on Hemlock Street and First Street for the transfer of medical samples

- An agreement with Bentley and Sons Funeral Home to provide morgue cooler storage for human remains on behalf of the Coroner’s Office at a rate of $100 per day
• An agreement with Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority for the lease of property located at the Macon Downtown Airport; to authorize the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority to market and explore aviation-related economic activity of said property

• An agreement with KEMI Construction Co. Inc. for the amount of $380,476 to be taken from LMIG Funds to perform concrete street repair work on various streets and roads in Macon-Bibb County

• A lease agreement providing Community Services in lieu of rent between Macon-Bibb County and the Kings Park Community Development Corporation to operate a Neighborhood Community Center located at 3283 and 3296 Kingston Court

• Approved submitting the Macon-Bibb County Five Year Short Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for compliance review

• Approved an Ordinance to revise Chapter 2, Sec. 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances to authorize the Director of Business Development Services and the Director of Recreation to drive their assigned County-owned vehicle from their place of work to their residence and vice versa

• Approved the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Grant Awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court in the amount of $190,836 with a State share of $171,752 from Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and 2015 JAG Federal Funds Match of $19,084

• Approved the acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant awarded to the Bibb County Juvenile Court in the amount of $307,872 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

**Economic and Community Development Committee**

Committee Chair Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on June 23, 2015 and took the following action:

• The Master Plans for Central City Park and Sub South Recreation Center were adopted with the understanding that the plans could be amended or changed in the future

• The Resolution to reconstitute the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority as provided in O.C.G.A. § 48-4-100 et seq. was approved

• The appointments of Bert Bivins, Jeffery Monroe, Chuck O’Neal and Tom Ellington to the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority were approved

• The agreement with Restoration of Engine 509 LLC was approved to effectuate the lease of Steam Locomotive #509; to establish guidelines regarding the restoration to
operational status of Steam Locomotive #509; to reserve the right to amend such agreement prior to operational excursions
Public Safety Committee

No Report.

Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Chair Mallory Jones reported that the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on June 23, 2015 and took the following action:

- The Committee tabled for further study an Ordinance to revise Chapter 24 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances entitled and related to Streets and Sidewalks
- The Committee received an update on the development plans for the former A. L. Miller School on Montpelier Avenue. Mr. Mark Wright, Oracle Design Group, reported that the work should begin by September to revamp the property into housing. Mr. Wright showed the committee how a new senior center could be added to the design plans if the Macon-Bibb Commission chooses to move the center

CONSENT AGENDA

A. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Min Jae ENT, Inc. d/b/a Chevron Food Mart located at 4719 Northside Drive, Macon, GA 31210

B. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Southside Mini Mart located at 3245 Houston Avenue, Macon, GA 31206

C. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Amy's Pour House, LLC located at 5640 Houston Road, Macon, GA 31216

D. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Francar's Inc. d/b/a Francar's at Bowden located at 3111 Millerfield Road, Macon, GA 31211

E. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Guitarras Mexican Grill located at 157 Tom Hill Sr. Blvd., Macon, GA 31210

F. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Ice Bar & Grill located at 3464 Williamson Road, Macon, GA 31206

G. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for JKPS Hartley Bridge, LLCS d/b/a Market Place located at 4515 Hartley Bridge Road, Macon, GA 31216

H. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for JIL-KAVYA 1 d/b/a Reliance Food Mart located at 3590 Napier Avenue, Macon, GA 31204

I. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Apple Georgia LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar located at 6235 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31210
ACTION

- On motion of Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Ed DeFore, and carried unanimously, the nine (9) new alcoholic beverage licenses were approved.


OLD BUSINESS

A. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, as Trustees of the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968, to accept retirements attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- The Retirees as read by Mayor Reichert are: Chief Investigator Jonathan D. Collins - District Attorney’s Office; Captain Randall J. Collins - Sheriff’s Office; Sharon G. Burnette, Exec. Secretary - Juvenile Court; Deputy Jack L. Cleveland - Sheriff’s Office; Lt. Maurice Clowers - Sheriff’s Office; Lisa L. Coke - Tax Assessors Office; Anita A. Drumgold - Tax Assessors Office; Theresa L. Fields - Tax Assessors Office; Gloria J. Gray - Sheriff’s Office; Major Dennis J. Hagerman - Sheriff’s Office; Wendell Hall - Tax Assessors Office; Garry Haywood - Parks & Beautification; Roy Jordan - Vehicle Maintenance; Jacqueline C. Phillips - Civil Court; Sgt. Servando Saldivar - Sheriff’s Office; Linda S. Thurman - Superior Court Clerk’s Office; and Phyllis C. Willis - Civil Court.

ACTION:


B. (2nd Reading) An Ordinance to amend Charter Appendix III, Macon Fire and Police Employees Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances to allow Fire or Law Enforcement representatives to be either active or retired rather than alternate between an active or retired member every other term.

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend Charter Appendix III, Macon Fire and Police Employees Retirement System (1969 GA. Laws, page 2801) of the Code of Ordinances, Macon-Bibb County Georgia so as to allow the Fire Department or Law Enforcement representative of the Retirement Board of Trustees to be either active or retired rather than having it alternate between an active or retired member every other term; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

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

C. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the River Edge Behavioral Health to appropriate $403,750.00 in the FY 16 Budget to provide services to mentally ill and chemical dependent citizens; and for other purposes

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the River Edge Behavioral Health Center for $403,750 to support the organization’s desire to provide services to mentally ill and chemical dependent citizens; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


D. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Navicent Health in the amount of $2,500 per year to allow Navicent Health to install a Pneumatic Tube System under County owned right-of-way on Hemlock Street and First Street for the transfer of medical samples

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Navicent Health in the amount of $2,500.00 per year to allow Navicent Health to install a Pneumatic Tube System under County owned right-of-way on Hemlock Street and First Street for the transfer of medical samples; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


E. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Bentley and Sons Funeral Home to provide morgue cooler storage for human remains on behalf of the Coroner's Office at a rate of $100.00 per day

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Bentley and Sons Funeral Home to provide morgue cooler storage for human remains on behalf of the Coroner’s Office at a rate of $100.00 per day; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

F. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority for the lease of property located at the Macon Downtown Airport; to authorize the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority to market and explore aviation related economic activity of said property

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority for the lease of property located at the Macon Downtown Airport; to authorize the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority to market and explore aviation related economic activity of said property; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


G. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with KEMI Construction Co. Inc. for the amount of $380,476.00, to perform concrete street repair work on various streets and roads in Macon-Bibb County

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with KEMI Construction Co. Inc. for the amount of $380,476.00 to perform concrete street repair work on various streets and roads in Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


H. A Resolution authorizing a lease agreement providing Community Services in lieu of rent between Macon-Bibb County and the Kings Park Community Development Corporation to operate a Neighborhood Community Center located at 3283 and 3296 Kingston Court

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute a lease agreement providing Community Services in lieu of rent between Macon-Bibb County, Georgia and the Kings Park Community Development Corporation to operate a Neighborhood Community Center located at 3283 and 3296 Kingston Court, Macon, Georgia, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “B”; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

I. A Resolution to submit the Macon-Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for compliance review

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to submit the Macon-Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for compliance review; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


J. An Ordinance to revise Chapter 2, Sec. 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances to authorize the Director of Business Development Services and the Director of Recreation to drive their assigned County-owned vehicle from their place of work to their residence and vice versa; to provide an adoption and effective date

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to revise Chapter 2, Sec. 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County to authorize the Director of Business Development Services and the Director of Recreation to drive their assigned County-owned vehicle from their place of work to their residence and vice versa; to provide an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:


K. A Resolution authorizing the Sheriff's Office to apply for the FY 15 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant application for $66,240.00 from the Department of Justice

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Sheriff’s Office to apply for the FY 15 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant application for $66,240.00 from the Department of Justice; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


L. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts
Funding Grant awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court in the amount of $190,836.00 with a State share of $171,752.00 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and 2015 BJA JAG Federal Funds Match of $19,084.00

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Grant awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court in the amount of $190,836.00 with a State share of $171,752.00 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and 2015 BJA JAG Federal Funds Match of $19,084.00; and for other purposes.

**ACTION**

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

M. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant awarded to the Bibb County Juvenile Court in the amount of $307,872 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant awarded to the Bibb County Juvenile Court in the amount of $307,872.00 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; and for other purposes.
ACTION:

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

N. A Resolution to reconstitute the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority as provided by O.C.G.A. § 48-4-100 et seq.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to reconstitute the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority as provided by O.C.G.A. § 48-4-100 et seq.; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

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

O. A Resolution confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Bert Bivins, Jeffery Monroe, Chuck O’Neal, and Tom Ellington to the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Bert Bivins, Jeffery Monroe, Chuck O’Neal, and Tom Ellington to the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

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

P. A Resolution to execute an agreement with Restoration of Engine 509 LLC to effectuate the lease of Steam Locomotive #509; to establish guidelines regarding the restoration to operational status of Steam Locomotive #509; to reserve the right to amend such agreement prior to operational excursions of Locomotive #509

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to execute an agreement with Restoration of Engine 509 LLC to effectuate the lease of Steam Locomotive #509; to establish guidelines regarding the restoration to operational status of Steam Locomotive #509; to reserve the right to amend such agreement prior to operational excursions of Locomotive #509; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

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

A. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Supplemental Grant awarded to the Bibb County Juvenile Court in the amount of $45,669 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

B. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Supplemental Funding Grant awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit Adult Drug, Mental Health, and Veterans Courts in the amount of $19,860 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

C. A Resolution confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Reginald Rex Moore to Post 2 of the Retirement Committee of the Macon Pensions and Retirement Systems, Division A for the remainder of the unexpired term of retiring member Neal Davis

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

D. A Resolution requesting commencement of Regional T-SPLOST proceedings pursuant to the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (HB-170)

**Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

E. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an agreement with Rum Creek Enterprises, LLC to manage Blight Remediation efforts in the Wise Avenue area; to negotiate and execute an agreement with Historic Hills and Heights Development Corporation to manage Blight Remediation efforts in the Beall’s Hill area

**Referred To: Committee of the Whole**

F. An Ordinance to adopt a budget for the Blight Remediation Bond Funds appropriating $9,000,000 of said funds equally between the nine Macon-Bibb County Commission Districts; appropriating $300,000 of said Blight Remediation Bond Funds to community engagement initiatives and appropriating $700,000 of the Blight Remediation Bond Funds to waste disposal activities

**Referred To: Committee of the Whole**

G. An Ordinance providing for the use of the $10,000,000 remaining Blight Bond Funds as follows: four neighborhood projects to include: "Coliseum Heights", "Pleasant Hill North", "Montpelier Heights", and "South Second Street"

**Referred To: Committee of the Whole**
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Greg Williams expressed his concerns regarding the children in the community. He believes they are the future leaders of the community and is concerned that without intervention they will not be able to lead.

Mr. Don Richardson read an article and reflected on past Black experiences and traditions in Macon and other Macon historical facts dating back to the 1820’s.

Pastor Don Ray encouraged the Commission to allocate funds to eliminate blight in the South Macon area focusing on Houston Avenue and Ponce de Leon to encourage neighborhood pride and re-development of the area.

Mr. Michael Mayo asked if the Commission had considered working with volunteers and community outreach programs on the fight against blight.

Ms. Annie Gibson stated that she would like to see the South Bibb County section allocated blight funds. She stated that she is most concerned about the area from Houston Avenue to downtown Macon.

Mr. Merritt Johnson stated that he would like to see the blight funds divided among the nine Commission districts in order for all communities to receive benefits from the blight funds. He also inquired as to when work will be started on the Log Cabin Road project and would like to see more recreational facilities in the Bloomfield area.

Mr. Louie Hargrove stated that he would like to see recreation facilities placed in all areas of the community and addressed blight issues and the new charter school being built in the Pleasant Hill community.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEDGE

Commissioner Schlesinger stated that with the recent burning of the God’s Power Church of Christ, the Council on Clergy met and are in consensus to bring a message to the citizens of Macon-Bibb County that this community will not tolerate the burning of any worship center. He also announced The Council on Clergy will join together in the coming days at God’s Power Church of Christ for a news conference and invited citizens and the Commission to join with him at the news conference.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Jean S. Howard
Clerk of Commission