MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION  
August 19, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.  
Government Center  
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on August 19, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

Commission Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Dale Walker – County Manager  
Judd Drake – County Attorney  
Crystal Jones, Sr. Asst. County Attorney  
Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney  
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney  
Chris Floore – Assistant to County Manager  
Julie Moore – Assistant to County Manager  
Robert Faulkner – Judge, Municipal Court  
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission  
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr - Infrastructure  
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission  
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator  
Trae McCombs – Public Affairs  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs

Guests in Attendance

June Parker  
Susan Welsh  
Leroy Thomas

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ  
Malcolm Johnson – WGXA FOX 24  
Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA

CALLED TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Rev. Mike Fuller of Midway Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on August 5, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on August 5, 2014

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on August 5, 2014 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Reverend Mike Fuller of Midway Baptist Church was invited to render the prayer for tonight's Regular Commission Meeting.

The Mayor asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add item DD under Old Business, which is a Resolution discussed during tonight’s Executive Session for the purchase of property at 656 Emery Highway

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Mallory Jones, III, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to add item DD under Old Business was approved.


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 Tuesday, August 12, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:
• Appropriations for FY2015 for items C-Q on tonight’s agenda.

• Transfer of $57,000 from Georgia Power lawsuit to the Road Improvement Program for acquisition of property for the Jeffersonville Road Project.

• Approved the Ordinance for the establishment of Taxing Districts, providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for Macon-Bibb County for calendar year 2014, and establishing millage rates for said purposes at 14.652 Mills for the Macon-Bibb County Tax District and 4.85 Mills for the Macon City Tax District and tonight concluded the three Public Hearings held on the Tax Millage Rate.

**Economic and Community Development Committee**

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:

• Authorized and directed the Administration to seek proposals to undertake a comprehensive blight study.

• Authorized further necessary investigation and action to secure revenue bond allocations for the purpose of vacant lot maintenance, blighted housing demolition, and other infrastructure beautification in Macon-Bibb County in the expanded areas of the 2014 Urban Redevelopment Plan.

• Authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement with Georgia Behavioral Health Services in the amount of $299,994 with funding from the Home Investment Partnership Program to construct a sustainable group home at 980-982 Schaffer Place.

• Macon-Bibb County's continued participation in the “Heartbeat Incentive Program” whereby proposed Mixed Use Developments in the Urban Redevelopment Area maybe granted the benefit of reduced or eliminated property taxes according to the applicable savings schedule through the use of “Payment In Lieu of Taxes” (PILOT”) transactions administered by the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority.

**Public Safety Committee**

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported the Public Safety Committee met on August 12, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:

• A revision to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 5: Animals for an increase in the fees charged by Macon-Bibb County Animal Welfare for offenses:
  
  A. Regarding the care and control of licensed or permitted animals  
  B. The abandonment of domesticated animals  
  C. The tethering and transport of animals

In addition, a $5.00 assessment will be charged for each offense which will be used for mandated continuing education requirements for the Animal Welfare Department staff.
Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on August 12, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:

- Parkway Plaza was accepted as a public road subject to final repairs being made
- Authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement with C. W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc. for road reconstruction and full depth road reclamation services
- The Mayor was authorized to execute an agreement with Womack Paving Inc. in the amount of $65,076.45 for the landfill entrance rehabilitation
- The Mayor was authorized to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and the Macon Water Authority to serve as the County’s agent for the design, procurement, construction, and completion of storm water management projects and drainage improvements funded by SPLOST funds
- The Ordinance amending Chapter 29, Article VIII and Chapter 29, Article IX of the Drainage and Paving Districts section of the Code of Ordinances of Macon-Bibb County to include guidelines for Special Sanitary Sewerage Districts, to amend Chapter 29, Article IX to reflect the current water system Ordinances, to add Chapter 29, Article X to reflect the current residential street lighting Ordinances

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New alcoholic beverage licenses for the following establishments: (A) Riverside Food Mart located at 2840 Riverside Drive, (B) Bobby Food Mart II located at 845 Bowman Street, and (C) Moe’s Southwest Grill located at 6255 Zebulon Road

**ACTION:**


OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance for the establishment of Taxing Districts, providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for Macon-Bibb County for calendar year 2014, and establishing millage rates for said purposes at 14.65 mills for the Macon-Bibb County Tax District and 4.85 mills for Macon City Tax District

**Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission providing for the establishment of taxing districts, providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for Macon-Bibb County, Georgia within such districts for the calendar year 2014, and establishing millage rates for said purposes at 14.652 mills for the Macon-Bibb County Tax District and 4.85 mills for the Macon City Tax District; and for other lawful purposes.
ACTION:


B. Approval of Retirements: Doug Furney – Tobesofkee (31 years and 4 months), Charles Martin – Public Works Department (22 years and 8 months), and Sergio Hardy – Sheriff’s Department (22 years and 5 months).

ACTION:


Mayor Reichert stated items C-Q are all appropriated sums of money approved in the 2015 Budget. The Operations and Finance Committee also approved the individual contracts with the associated outside agency, and that it would be the Chair’s recommendation that they be voted on in bloc unless a Commissioner deemed one of the items needed to be voted on separately. There were no objections to the items being voted on in bloc.

The Mayor read items C-Q:

C. Resolution to appropriate $75,000 in support of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

D. Resolution to appropriate $95,000 in support of the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission

E. Resolution to appropriate $96,000 in support of the Douglass Theatre

F. Resolution to appropriate $237,500 in support of the Museum of Arts and Sciences

G. Resolution to appropriate $633,400 in support of the Macon-Bibb County Board of Health

H. Resolution to appropriate $2,785,700 in support of the Middle Georgia Regional Library and $10,000 of In Kind Services in support of the Bookmobile

I. Resolution to appropriate $171,900 in support of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission

J. Resolution to appropriate $2,751,000 ($2,434,000 in support of the Transit Authority and $317,000 in support of ParaTransit) in support of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority

K. Resolution to appropriate $425,000 in support of the River Edge Behavioral Health Center
L. Resolution to appropriate $67,500 in support of the Historic Hills & Heights Development Corporation

M. Resolution to appropriate $880,900 in support of the Macon-Bibb County Planning and Zoning Commission

N. Resolution to appropriate $237,500 in support of the Tubman Museum

O. Resolution to appropriate $202,400 in support of the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority

P. Resolution to appropriate $850,000 in support of the Bibb County Department of Family and Children Services

Q. Resolution to appropriate $424,600 in support of the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority

**ACTION:**


R. Resolution authorizing and directing the Administration to seek proposals to undertake a comprehensive Blight Study

**ACTION:**

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing and directing the Administration to seek proposals to undertake a comprehensive Blight Study; and for other purposes.

S. Resolution to authorize further necessary investigation and action to secure revenue bond allocations for the Macon-Bibb County expanded areas of the 2014 Urban Redevelopment Plan

**ACTION:**

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize further necessary investigation and action to secure revenue bond allocations for the purpose of vacant lot maintenance, blighted housing demolition, and other infrastructure beautification in Macon-Bibb County in the expanded areas of the 2014 Urban Redevelopment Plan; and for other purposes.

T. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Georgia Behavioral Health Services in the amount of $299,994 with funding from the Home Investment Partnership Program to construct a sustainable group home at 980-982 Schaffer Place

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Georgia Behavioral Health Services in the amount of two hundred ninety nine thousand nine hundred ninety-four dollars ($299,994.00) with funding from the Home Investment Partnership Program to construct a sustainable group home at 980-982 Schaffer Place; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


U. Resolution approving continued participation in the “Heartbeat Incentive Program” whereby Mixed Use Developments may be granted reduced or eliminated property taxes

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving Macon-Bibb County’s continued participation in the “Heartbeat Incentive Program” whereby proposed Mixed Use Developments in the Urban Development Area may be granted the benefit of reduced or eliminated property taxes according to the applicable savings schedule through the use of “Payment in Lieu of Taxes” (“Pilot”) transactions administered by the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


V. Ordinance to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-12 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County increasing the amount charged for offenses regarding the care and control of licensed or permitted animals, mandating court appearance for the third and fourth offenses under this section, and adding a fee to fund animal welfare education expenses

• Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-12 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County increasing the amount charged for offenses regarding the care and control of licensed or permitted animals, mandating court appearance for the third and fourth offenses under this section, and adding a fee to fund
animal welfare education expenses; to provide an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

**ACTION:**


W. Ordinance to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-13 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County increasing the amount charged for the offense of abandoning a domesticated animal

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-13 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County increasing the amount charged for the offense of abandoning a domesticated animal; to provide an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

**ACTION:**


X. Ordinance to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-22 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County increasing the amount charged for the offense of tethering and transport, prohibited conduct

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-22 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County increasing the amount charged for the offense of tethering and transport, prohibited conduct; to provide an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Jones asked about the amount of the fee increases, and requested they be put on the County’s website. Commissioner Shepherd stated the fines as follows: for the first offense - $100, second offense - $300, third offense - $500, and the fourth or subsequent offense a minimum of $1,500 with a mandatory appearance in Municipal Court. In addition to the fines, a $5.00 fee for each offense would be charged and dedicated to support the educational requirements mandated for Animal Welfare personnel. Commissioners Tillman and Bivins stated the public needed to be educated on the offense of tethering and its meaning. Commissioner Shepherd stated prior to any tickets being issued and fees assessed, individuals would be educated and warned for any offense for which they were being cited.

**ACTION:**

- Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry
Resolution accepting the dedication of a public road located at or near Bloomfield Parkway and Eisenhower Parkway in the 4th Land District and to declare that said road shall be open for public use and maintained by Macon-Bibb County

- Clerk read by caption: **A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission accepting the dedication of a public road located at or near Bloomfield Parkway and Eisenhower Parkway in the 4th Land District and to declare that said road shall be open for public use and maintained by Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.** Also, acceptance is subject to the final approval by the County Engineer that all repairs on the punch list have been made.

**ACTION:**


Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with C. W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc. for road reconstruction and full depth road reclamation services

- Clerk read by caption: **A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with C. W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc. for road reconstruction and full depth road reclamation services; and for other purposes.**

**ACTION:**


Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Womack Paving, Inc. in the amount of $65,076.45 for landfill entrance rehabilitation

- Clerk read by caption: **A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Womack Paving Inc. in the amount of $65,076.45 for landfill entrance rehabilitation, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.**

**ACTION:**


Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between
Macon-Bibb County and the Macon Water Authority to serve as the County’s agent for
for the design, procurement, construction, and completion of storm water management
projects and drainage improvements funded by SPLOST funds

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission
  authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between
  Macon-Bibb County and the Macon Water Authority to serve as the County’s
  agent for the design, procurement, construction, and completion of Storm
  Water Management projects and drainage improvements funded by SPLOST
  funds; 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, Virgil
  Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

CC. Ordinance amending Chapter 29 Article VIII and Chapter 29 Article IX of the Drainage
and Paving Districts Section of the Code of Ordinances to include guidelines and
special sanitary sewerage districts and setting forth uniform procedures for the creation
of said districts

- **Clerk read by caption:** An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission
  amending Chapter 29 Article VIII and Chapter 29 Article IX of the Drainage and
  Paving Districts Section of the Code of Ordinances of Macon-Bibb County to
  include guidelines for Special Sanitary Sewerage Districts and setting forth
  uniform procedures for the creation of said districts; to amend Chapter 29
  Article IX to reflect the current water system Ordinances; to add Chapter 29
  Article X to reflect the current residential street lighting Ordinances; 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, Virgil
  Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

DD. Resolution approving an agreement with Walthall Oil Company to purchase 656 Emery
Highway for $75,000 subject to a satisfactory Environmental Phase I Statement being
received

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission
  approving an agreement with Walthall Oil Company to purchase 656 Emery
  Highway Macon-Bibb County, Georgia for $75,000; and for other purposes.

- **Approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas,
  Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al
  Tillman.

- Commissioner Gary Bechtel abstained from voting - he is employed by the agency
  representing the seller.
NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Crew Cab Patch Truck for use by the Facilities Management Department

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2014 Wheel Loader with a bucket attachment for the use by Public Works Department

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

C. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement of extension with the Houston County Board of Health WIC Program for the lease of office space located at 456 Oglethorpe Street

Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

D. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement of extension with the River Edge Behavioral Health Center for lease of office space located at 175 Emery Highway

Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

E. Resolution authorizing the marketing, sale and/or participation in a Public/Private Partnership involving the Government Center Annex for the purpose of creating a Mixed Use Development Project

Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

F. Resolution to appoint Derrick M. Catlett, Jean M. Bragg, and Valerie R. Bradley, and to reappoint Martha E. Carter, Helen M. Weathers, Charles A. Jay, Diane A. Newton, Melinda D. Robinson-Moffett, Theresa L. Robinson, Mark A. Stevens, Charlotte Woody, and Carolyn M. Crayton to the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission

Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

G. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority for the transfer of ownership, interest, and access right to the property located adjacent to the Terminal Station building, commonly known as the Causey Property

Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee

H. Resolution accepting the dedication of a public road known as Liberty Estates Drive located in the 4th Land District and to declare that said road shall be open for public use and maintained by Macon-Bibb County
Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee

I. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a payment in lieu of rent agreement between Macon-Bibb County and the Georgia Department of Human Services for $1,247,145 for office space located at 456 Oglethorpe Street

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

J. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the First Amendment to the 2011 SPLOST Intergovernmental Contract

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

K. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Macon Area Habitat for Humanity to deconstruct and demolish a blighted residential structure in Macon-Bibb County for $9,000

Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

L. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement of Extension with the State Properties Commission on behalf of the Department of Veterans Services for the lease of office space located at 653 Second Street

Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee

M. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement of Extension with the Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. for the lease of office space located at 653 Second Street

Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.


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Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission