MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
August 4, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on August 4, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert  
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger  
Commissioner Elaine Lucas  
Commissioner Mallory C. Jones, III  
Commissioner Ed DeFore  
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd  
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.  
Commissioner Al Tillman

Commission Members Absent

Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins, III  
Commissioner Gary Bechtel

Staff Present:

Dale Walker – County Manager  
Charlie Coney – Assistant County Manager  
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. – Public Affairs  
Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney  
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney  
Opie Bowen – Asst. Co. Attorney  
Jean S. Howard – Clerk of Commission

Guests in Attendance

June Parker – Exec. Dir., Macon Housing Authority  
Mrs. Sarah Hunt  
Ms. Patricia Tillman (Mother of Commissioner Al Tillman)  
Ms. Diane Walker Williams  
Mr. Robert Hughes  
Mr. Melvin Lawrence  
Ms. Sara Whisby  
Stanley Dunlap – The Telegraph  
Paula Rotondo – 13 WMAZ

News Media Present

CALLED TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Deacon James Hubbard of Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on July 21, 2015
B. Regular Commission Meeting on July 21, 2015

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on July 21, 2015 were approved as presented.

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

INVITED GUESTS

Deacon James Hubbard of Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s meeting.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas and Mayor Reichert recognized and presented a Proclamation to Melvin Lawrence, Diane Walker Williams, Sara Whisby, and Robert Hughes, members of the Ballard Hudson High School Class of 1965, proclaiming July 4, 2015 as “Ballard-Hudson Class of 1965 Day.”

Mr. Melvin Lawrence, class president, thanked the Mayor and Commissioners and gave special thanks to Commissioner Lucas for her assistance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Lindsay Holliday spoke on the lease agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and the services he felt the Commission was not providing to the government, as well as recommending an increase in the rental rate paid by the Commission.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Vice Chairman Elaine Lucas reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on July 28, 2015 and took the following action:

- Approved a one (1) year lease agreement with River Edge Behavioral Health Center for the lease of office space at 175 Emery Highway for $403,750.08
- Approved a lease agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the lease of office space located at 175-C Emery Highway for the annual lease amount of $100,000.08
• Approved an agreement with the Third Judicial Administrative District of Georgia for $81,064 for Administrative Services provided to the Macon-Bibb County Drug Court
• Approved an agreement with F.B.P. Insurance Services, LLC d/b/a Proview Advanced Administrators, LLC in an amount not to exceed $54,000 for the first year, and to provide Administrator Services to the Macon-Bibb County Benefits Program
• Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Bibb County School District to call an election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 of the voters of Bibb County to approve the continuation of a One Percent Sale and Use Tax for education, and to allow for the reimbursement of costs incurred

Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chair Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on July 28, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

• Approved the resolution appointing Jeffery McGee to the Macon-Bibb County Department of Business Development Services Construction Board of Appeals
• Approved the resolution calling for the commission of a portrait to be completed by a local artist of former Macon Attorney Thomas Jackson and authorized a ceremony to be held at the Thomas Jackson Juvenile Justice Center to present said portrait to the public
• Approved the resolution authorizing the lease of sixty golf carts for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of $126,921.60 from Textron, Inc. for 48 months and to trade in 60 golf carts for $83,700
• Approved a resolution requesting the Georgia Department of Community Affairs submit a request to the Treasury Department to release Hardest Hit Funding to be used for the Georgia Blight Elimination Program and to establish program criteria to allow for successful use of the funds

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chair Scotty Shepherd reported that the Public Safety Committee met on July 28, 2015 and took the following action:

Commissioner Shepherd stated Commissioner Lucas and other members of the newly formed Macon-Bibb County Pedestrian Fatality Review Board held their first meeting in the Commissioners’ Conference Room and reported the following to the Committee:

• Commissioner Elaine Lucas introduced the members of the Board who are:
  ▪ Ms. Violet Poe, Citizen at large
  ▪ Mr. Michael Ryan, Citizen at large
  ▪ Mr. Nigel Floyd, Traffic Engineer
Commissioner Lucas also reported that the Board elected Captain Eric Walker as Chairman, and Mr. Michael Ryan as Vice Chairman. The Board is scheduled to meet the third Tuesday of each month with the first meeting to be held on August 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Shepherd also stated the Committee received a presentation by Mr. Michael Yanosy, Chairman of Volunteer Macon, on a Social Host Ordinance that would hold non-commercial individuals responsible for underage drinking on property they own, lease or rent. The Committee requested additional information more clarification on liability issues before making a decision on the ordinance.

**Facilities and Engineering Committee**

Committee Chair Mallory Jones reported that the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on July 28, 2015 and took the following action:

- Approved a resolution to authorize that condemnation of a right-of-way consisting of 538.61 square feet (0.012 acres), more or less, as shown as parcel 26 of the right-of-way survey plat of Log Cabin Drive, which will pave the way for installation of sidewalks.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A new Alcoholic Beverage License for 584 Emery Highway Shopping, LLC d/b/a Quick Serve located at 584 Emery Highway, Macon, GA 31217

**ACTION:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. A Resolution authorizing a one year lease agreement with River Edge Behavioral Health Center for the lease of office space at 175 Emery Highway for $403,750.08.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute a one (1) year lease agreement with River Edge Behavioral Health Center for the lease of office space at 175 Emery Highway for the amount of $403,750.08; and for other purposes.**
ACTION:

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

B. A Resolution authorizing a lease agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the lease of office space at 175-C Emery Highway for the annual lease amount $100,000.08

  Commissioner Shepherd commended the work of the Regional Development Center for their assistance in completing the Macon-Bibb County employee pay scale and for their invaluable assistance in the Consolidation of the City of Macon and Bibb County governments and other work they do for our community. Mayor Reichert stated for clarification that this is rent being charged to the Regional Development Center and that they're paying to us for office space they occupy.

  • **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute a lease agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the lease of office space located at 175-C Emery Highway for the annual lease amount $100,000.08, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

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

C. A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Third Judicial Administrative District of Georgia for $81,064.00 for administrative services provided to the Macon-Bibb County Drug Court

  • **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Third Judicial Administrative District of Georgia for $81,064.00 for administrative services provided to the Macon-Bibb County Drug Court in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; to employ a qualified individual to serve as Administrator of the Macon-Bibb County Drug Court; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

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

D. A Resolution authorizing an agreement with F.B.P. Insurance Services, LLC d/b/a Proview Advanced Administrators, LLC, in an amount not to exceed $54,000 for the first year, to provide Administrator Services to the Macon-Bibb County Benefits Program

  • **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with F.B.P. Insurance Services, LLC d/b/a Proview Advanced Administrators, LLC, in an amount not to exceed $54,000.00 for the first year, to provide Administrator Services to the Macon-
Bibb County Benefits Program; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

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

E. A Resolution to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Bibb County School District to call an election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 of the voters of Bibb County to approve the continuation of a one percent sales and use tax for education

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Bibb County School District to call an election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, of the voters of Bibb County to approve the continuation of a one percent sales and use tax for education in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; to allow for the reimbursement of costs incurred; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

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

F. A Resolution appointing Jeffery McGee to the Macon-Bibb County Department of Business Development Services Construction Board of Appeals

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission appointing Jeffery McGee to the Macon-Bibb County Department of Business Development Services Construction Board of Appeals; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

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

G. A Resolution authorizing the commission of a portrait to be completed by a local artist of former Macon Attorney Thomas Jackson, authorizing a ceremony to be held at the Thomas Jackson Juvenile Justice Center to present said portrait

Mayor Reichert stated there was a portrait of Attorney Jackson already in existence, which was shown during the Pre-Commission Meeting that could be reframed and enlarged and used in lieu of commissioning a new portrait. Mayor Reichert also stated a dedication ceremony has been scheduled at the Juvenile Justice Center August 27th at 10:00 AM for the unveiling and dedication in his memory with his family invited to attend.

ACTION:

- Commissioner Scotty Shepherd motioned for a Floor Substitute, seconded by Commissioner Ed DeFore, to reframe and enlarge an existing portrait of Attorney
Jackson that was viewed by the Commissioners during the meeting of the Committee of the Whole this evening.

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman to adopt the Floor Substitute sponsored by Commissioner Shepherd.**

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the restoration of a Thomas Jackson portrait; authorizing a ceremony to be held at the Thomas Jackson Juvenile Justice Center to install and present said restored portrait to the public; and for other purposes.**

H. A Resolution to authorize and approve the lease of sixty golf carts for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of $126,921.60 from Textron, Inc. for 48 months; to trade in 60 golf carts for $83,700

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize and approve the lease of sixty golf carts for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of one hundred twenty six thousand nine hundred twenty-one and 60/100s ($126,921.60) from Textron, Inc. for forty eight months in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; to trade in sixty golf carts for eighty three thousand seven hundred dollars ($83,700.00); and for other purposes.**

**ACTION:**

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

I. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to request the Georgia Department of Community Affairs submit a request to the Treasury Department to release Hardest Hit Funding to be used for a Georgia Blight Elimination Program

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to request the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) submit a request to the Treasury Department to release Hardest Hit Funding to be used for a Georgia Blight Elimination Program, and establish program criteria to allow for successful use of the funds; and for other purposes.**

**ACTION:**

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

J. A Resolution to authorize the condemnation of a Right of Way consisting of 538.61 square feet, more or less, as shown as parcel 26 of the right-of-way survey plat of Log Cabin Drive

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon–Bibb County Commission to authorize the condemnation of a Right of Way consisting of 538.61 square feet (0.012 acres), more or less, as shown as parcel 26 of the right-of-way**
survey plat of Log Cabin Drive; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. An Ordinance establishing a Millage Rate of 14.652 Mills to be levied and assessed for the year 2015 upon the taxable property located in the Macon-Bibb County Tax District and providing for the termination of the Macon City Tax District

Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Lindsay Holliday spoke on the MATS Committee’s non-compliance with the requirements of an active Citizens Advisory Committee and volunteers available to assist with the use of drones.

Ms. Deborah B. Wood spoke on her experience with River Edge in regards to her two sons, and other agencies where she has sought assistance.

Mr. Don Richardson spoke on various historical events where he has done research.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Elaine Lucas commended the appropriateness of the naming of the Juvenile Justice Center and the unveiling of his portrait at the Juvenile Justice Center in his honor. Commissioner Lucas also stated Attorney Jackson served with distinction as a Municipal Court Judge, the first African American to be so appointed. She further stated Attorney Jackson was a renowned Civil Rights Attorney in Macon-Bibb County as well as the State of Georgia who was known for his fairness and for informing defendants of their rights. She stated it would be a pleasure for her along with his family and others for portrait unveiling of Attorney Thomas Jackson. She urged everyone to google Attorney Jackson to read about this great Civil Rights icon and his accomplishments to deem his worthiness of the honor being bestowed upon him.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

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

Jean S. Howard
Clerk of Commission