The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on September 1, 2015 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 Larry Schlesinger
- Commissioner Gary Bechtel
- Commissioner Elaine Lucas
- Commissioner Mallory C. Jones, III
- Commissioner Ed DeFore
- Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
- Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.

**Commission Members Absent**

- Commissioner Al Tillman

**Staff Present:**

- Dale Walker – County Manager
- Judd Drake – County Attorney
- Julie Moore – Assistant to County Manager
- Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. – Public Affairs
- Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney
- Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney
- Dr. James Bumpus – Dir. Small Business Affairs
- Opie Bowen – Asst. Co. Attorney
- Jean S. Howard – Clerk of Commission
- Janice Ross – Asst. Clerk of Commission
- Don Druitt – EMA Director
- Spenser Hawkins – Asst. EMA Director
- Kevin Barkley – Dir. of Solid Waste

**Guests in Attendance**

- June Parker – Exec. Dir., Macon Housing Authority
- Sarah Hunt
- Former Mayor C. Jack Ellis
- Lucille Clark
- Gwenette Westbrooks – President, Macon NAACP

**News Media Present**

- Stanley Dunlap – The Telegraph
- Paula Rotondo – 13 WMAZ
- Eric Mock – WPGA 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 – Director of Macon-Bibb County Small Business Affairs Office.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Georgia Civic Awareness Students (GCAPS) Sarah Kate Sellers, a junior at Stratford Academy, and Malik Thomas, a senior at Howard High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on August 18, 2015
B. Regular Commission Meeting on August 18, 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 August 18, 2015 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Warren Selby of Warren and Associates, Inc. presented two plaques to Mayor Reichert and the Macon-Bibb County Commission that were awarded to Warren and Associates, Inc. and Macon-Bibb County by the AGC Georgia Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc. as part of the “2015 AGC Build Georgia Awards.” The first plaque recognized the “Thomas Jackson Juvenile Justice Center” as the recipient of the first place new construction award for “Construction Excellence.” The second plaque recognized “Rehabilitation of the Band Stand and Round Building at Central City Park” as the recipient of the first place “Construction Excellence Award” for renovation. Mr. Selby asked for prayers for the public safety men and women of the Sheriff’s Office and Fire Department. He also thanked them for the service they provide to Macon-Bibb County.

Georgia Civic Awareness Program Students for year 2015–2016 were recognized by Mayor Reichert who stated there were more than 60 students in this year’s program consisting of thirty-five sophomores, juniors, and seniors selected from nine public and private schools, and home-schooled after an application and interview process. There are nine students returning from last year’s program. This is the second year Macon-Bibb County has participated in the Association County Commissioners of Georgia’s (ACCG) Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students.

Mayor Reichert also recognized the presence of former Mayor C. Jack Ellis and Macon Housing Authority Director June Parker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Former Mayor C. Jack Ellis spoke Midnight on the Ordinance to appropriate $25,000 for Operation Cease Fire Midnight Basketball League. He stated in order for this program to be successful and effective as the previous Midnight Basketball Program, the Sheriff’s Office, citizens input, as well as Parks and Recreation Department, the school board and others
needed to be involved. He also spoke on the involvement of the Regional Development Commission in solving the blight problem and stated this should be lie with the governing authority. He further stated several properties located on the County’s main streets and gateways to the city that are unkempt with overgrown grass and debris which reflects negatively on our community. He stated landlords and property owners are not tiding up their vacant properties. He also stated he had filed an Open Records Request for the 1994 SPLOST Road Project and three months had passed without the document being provided. County Attorney, Judd Drake, responded the document had been research by the Clerk’s Office and the document could not be found. Mayor Reichert stated the location of the document would be further researched and we would make every effort to honor his request.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chairman Gary Bechtel reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on August 25, 2015 and took the following action:

- Approved an independent contractor agreement with Macon Area Habitat for Humanity in the amount of $120,902 OF Home Investment Partnership Program Funds for construction of two single family low income housing units

- Approved two contracts on behalf of the Coroner’s Office with Right Now Removal and Daniels Removal and Transport Services for transportation services of cadavers

- Approved an agreement with Northeast Concrete Company in the amount of $281,241.48 for drainage infrastructure located on Lower Poplar Street using SPLOST funds

- Approved an agreement with AIOS Group to audit and access the current technology infrastructure for $15,000

- Approved the alteration of the Friends of Tattnall Square Park Plan to improve Tattnall Square Park to include a peace fountain

- The Committee approved the Five Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element Update

- The Committee approved purchasing approximately 6,720 residential garbage carts for $303,523.20

- Approved adopting the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for Blight Bond funds by designating $450,000 of the $9,000,000 which will be divided equally between the nine districts to resume the demolition of blighted structures as ordered by the Macon-Bibb Municipal Court

- Approved appropriating up to $25,000 from Fund Balance for Operation Cease Fire Midnight Basketball League
Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Vice-Chair Elaine Lucas reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on August 25, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

- Approved requesting assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to incorporate a plan for blight reduction in the Urban Development Plan. This will include identifying blight redevelopment projects, as well as general methodology for residential and commercial blight reduction, utilizing data driven models and studies as documentation of findings supporting the creation of the plan and the identification of certain projects.

- Approved requesting the Legislative Delegation modify the state Law regarding the minimum bid price of property being sold due to Ad Valorem Tax Foreclosures and to modify the period of time a person may redeem real property after an Ad Valorem Tax Foreclosure Sale.

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chair Scotty Shepherd reported that the Public Safety Committee met on August 25, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

- Approved a resolution to recognize the month of September 2015 as “National Preparedness Month”

Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Chair Mallory Jones reported that the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on August 25, 2015 and took the following action:

- Tony Rojas, Executive Director of the Macon Water Authority, updated the Committee on storm water management in Macon-Bibb County and reviewed the completed and proposed storm water projects funded and managed by the Macon Water Authority funded by the 2011 SPLOST. Mr. Rojas informed the Committee that the brick storm water system in downtown Macon is at the end if its life cycle and is expensive to repair and maintain.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Mahadev 2014, Inc. d/b/a Quick Zip #1 located at 3518 Jeffersonville Road, Macon, GA 31217
ACTION:


OLD BUSINESS

A. A Resolution to recognize the month of September 2015 as "National Preparedness Month"

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to recognize the month of September 2015 as “National Preparedness Month”; and for other purposes.

Mayor Reichert presented a Proclamation in recognition of “National Preparedness Month” to Emergency Management Director Donald Drufft and Deputy Emergency Management Director Spencer Hawkins, who stated this was an opportunity for all citizens to take steps to be prepared at home, school, work, and in their communities. Deputy Director Hawkins stated the Emergency Management Agency will be conducting educational classes throughout the month of September to educate the citizens of Macon-Bibb County on different types of emergencies, how it will affect them, and what can be done to prepare. Mayor Reichert stated he planned to attend one of the classes being offered and encouraged others to participate as well.

ACTION:


B. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, as Trustees of the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968, to accept the retirements of seven employees

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, as Trustees of the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968, to accept retirements as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.

Retirees: Harry Colbert, III, Sheriff’s Office -19 years; Albert Hogan, Sr., Vehicle Maintenance - 29 years; David W. Holliday, Sheriff’s Office - 24 years; Marla Lampley, Sheriff’s Office - 8 years; Chief Deputy Russell Nelson, Sheriff’s Office - 35 years; Judy D. Reynolds, Tax Assessors Office - 19 years; and Thomas W. Tedders, Jr., Macon-Bibb County Tax Commissioner - 29 years.

ACTION:

C. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an independent contractor agreement with Macon Area Habitat for Humanity Inc. in the amount of $120,902.00 of Home Investment Partnership Program Funds for construction of single family low income housing units at 4149 Dorothy Avenue and 4161 San Carlos Drive

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an independent contractor agreement with Macon Area Habitat for Humanity Inc. in the amount of $120,902.00 of Home Investment Partnership Program Funds for construction of single family low income housing units at 4149 Dorothy Avenue and 4161 San Carlos Drive in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:


D. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute two contracts on behalf of the Coroner's Office with Right Now Removal and Daniels Removal and Transport Services for transportation of cadavers

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute two (2) contracts on behalf of the Macon-Bibb County Coroner's Office with Right Now Removal and Daniels Removal and Transport Services for transportation of cadavers in a form to be approved by the County Attorney’s Office; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


E. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Northeast Concrete Company for the amount of $281,241.48 to perform services on the drainage infrastructure located on Lower Poplar Street

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Northeast Concrete Company for the amount of $281,241.48 to perform services on the drainage infrastructure located on Lower Poplar Street in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.
ACTION:


F. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with AIOS Group LLC for consulting services to audit and assess the current technology infrastructure of MBC for $15,000

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with AIOS Group LLC for consulting services to audit and assess the current technology infrastructure of Macon-Bibb County for $15,000; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


G. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Infinity Network Solutions, Inc. for Professional Information Technology Services for $17,100

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Infinity Network Solutions, Inc. for Professional Information Technology Services for $17,100; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


H. A Resolution approving the alteration of the Friends of Tattnall Square Park Plan to improve Tattnall Square Park to include a Peace Fountain

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving the alteration of the Friends of Tattnall Square Park Plan to improve Tattnall Square Park to include a Peace Fountain; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

I. A Resolution to adopt the Macon-Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element Update

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt the Macon-Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element Update attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.


J. A Resolution to authorize and approve the purchase of residential garbage containers for the Solid Waste Department in the amount of $303,523.20 from Toter, Inc.

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon–Bibb County Commission to authorize and approve the purchase of residential garbage containers for the Solid Waste Department in the amount of $303,523.20 from Toter, Inc.; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


K. An Ordinance adopting the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for the Blight Bond Funds by designating $450,000 of the $9,000,000 in Blight Bond Funds previously appropriated for each Commission District be divided equally between the nine Macon-Bibb County Commission Districts to be used for the demolition of blighted structures as ordered by the Macon-Bibb Municipal Court in accordance with the administrative process presently utilized for the demolition of such structure

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission An Ordinance adopting the First Amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance for the Blight Bond Funds by designating $450,000 of the $9,000,000 in Blight Bond Funds previously appropriated for each Commission District be divided equally between the nine Macon-Bibb County Commission Districts to be used for the demolition of blighted structures as ordered by the Macon-Bibb Municipal Court in accordance with the administrative process presently utilized for the demolition of such structures; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Mayor Reichert stated that in the Committee of the Whole meeting after hearing from the County Attorney on the allowed uses of the Blight Bond Funds and the need to involve the services of the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority, it was recommended that the Ordinance be referred back to the Operations and Finance Committee for further review and action. Commissioner Mallory Jones further stated the funds could only be used for Capital Improvements identified projects as advised by the County Attorney.
ACTION

- **On motion of Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Mallory Jones, III, the Ordinance was referred back to the Operations and Finance Committee for further action.**

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

L. An Ordinance to appropriate up to $25,000 from Fund Balance for Operation Cease Fire Midnight Basketball League

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to appropriate up to $25,000.00 from Fund Balance for Operation Cease Fire Midnight Basketball League; 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, and Virgil Watkins, Jr. as Amended.**

M. A Resolution requesting the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to incorporate a specific plan for Blight reduction in the Urban Development Plan which includes certain identified blight redevelopment projects, as well as general methodology for residential and commercial blight reduction, utilizing data driven models and studies as documentation of findings supporting the creation of the plan and the identification of certain projects

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to incorporate a specific plan for Blight reduction in the Urban Development Plan which includes certain identified blight redevelopment projects, as well as general methodology for residential and commercial blight reduction, utilizing data driven models and studies as documentation of findings supporting the creation of the plan and the identification of certain projects; 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, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.**

N. A Resolution authorizing a request be sent to the Local Legislative Delegation requesting modifications of State Law regarding minimum bid price of property being sold due to Ad Valorem Tax Foreclose; the period of time a person may redeem real
property after an Ad Valorem Tax Foreclosure Sale

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing a request be sent to the Local Legislative Delegation requesting modifications of State Law regarding minimum bid price of property being sold due to an Ad Valorem Tax Foreclose; to request modifications of State Law regarding the period of time a person may redeem real property after an Ad Valorem Tax Foreclosure Sale; and for other purposes.

**ACTION**


**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Reichert stated there was no new business for referral tonight but any new items would be added to next week’s Committees meetings agenda for distribution on Friday.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Wade Horton spoke on the need for expansion of services for the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority to meet the needs of citizens who rely on the services provided by the Transit Authority and his attendance at the Transit meetings to address these issues.

Mr. Donald Richardson spoke on demolition structures not being the cure all for blight, and Reflective Sounds.

Mr. Greg Williams spoke on the elimination of crime in the blighted areas of Macon and what efforts are being used to get Federal, State, and local grants to assist in eliminating blight. He encouraged a County-wide plan to eliminate blight in all areas of the County, and the need to bring more jobs to the community.

Ms. Gwenette Westbrook - NAACP spoke on the need for a 1989 terminated fireman who found out he was entitled to the Macon Fire and Police Pension benefits in 2009 as he had paid into the pension plan. Ms. Westbrook as for his case to be reviewed and confirmed he had pension benefits. She further asks that if research finds he was to receive benefits since 1989, 26 years that he be paid with interest for all payments due.

Mr. Robert Curry spoke on blight, recreation, and work being done on Log Cabin and the deplorable condition of the bridge on Log Cabin Drive and its difficult navigation by pedestrians in the area.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.


________________________________________
Jean S. Howard
Clerk of Commission