The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on September 16, 2014 at 6:01 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  
Commissioner Ed DeFore  
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd  
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.  
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 – Asst. to Co. Mgr.  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs  
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

**Guests in Attendance**

Erica Woodford, Clerk of Superior Court  
Andy Silver  
Ron Lemon  
Heather Bowman Cutway  
Rasheedah Caldwell  
Mercer University Center for Collaborative Journalism Students

**News Media Present**

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  
Karlie Barnett – 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. David L. Stanley of Union Baptist Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on September 2, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on September 2, 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 September 2, 2014 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Reverend David Stanley of Union Baptist Church was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting.

Ninti Chance - Miss Macon 2015 was recognized and congratulated by Mayor Reichert on her selection as “Miss Macon” and was also recognized for her academic achievements and service to the community. Ms. Chance thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for recognizing her and stated her goal and desire were to be selected “Miss Georgia” and represent Georgia in the “Miss America” pageant.

Mr. Harry James Taylor with the Middle Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition was presented a proclamation by Mayor Reichert in recognition of “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.” Mr. James urged all men to be tested for Prostate Cancer and to grow mustaches during the month of September as a means to stimulate conversation and dialog on the importance of men’s health.

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, September 9, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:

- Resolution authorizing Elected Officials of Macon-Bibb County to be covered under Workers’ Compensation.
- Resolution to adopt the Macon-Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element Update.

- Authorized and approved a consulting agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Owen Lewis Consulting for a maximum of one hundred ninety seven thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars ($197,920.00) for professional consulting services for the Courts software project. The funds will come from SPLOST Public dollars.

- Ordinance granting a franchise to Oconee Electric Membership Corporation.

**Economic and Community Development Committee**

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:

- Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority for park development services at Pinnacle Park for $100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. Pinnacle Park will be on Second Street at the site of where the Boys and Girls Club was previously located.

- Authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and Rebuilding Macon, Inc. for minor home repairs services for $120,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds.

- Authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and Home First Housing Resource Services, Inc. for housing services for $53,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds.

- Resolution commending the Friends of Tattnall Square Park for its exceptional service; approving its plans to improve Tattnall Square Park. This Resolution does not give Friends of Tattnall Square Park ownership or special rights in the Park.

**Public Safety Committee**

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd stated the Public Safety Committee did not have a report due to his Committee having no agenda items for consideration on September 9th.

**Facilities and Engineering Committee**

Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on September 9, 2014 and recommended approval of the following:
• Resolution to authorize the Mayor to transfer the parcel of property at 4664 Sheraton Drive to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority. Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) currently leases the building from Macon-Bibb County government and this will allow the Urban Development Authority the ability to negotiate a price with ARC for them to purchase the building.

• Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a commercial lease contract with Bob Lewis and Associates for office space located at 145 First Street to be occupied by Georgia Cooperative Extension Services.

• Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the purpose of applying for state allocated funds to use for the paving and maintenance of public roads under the 2015 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program. The amount of the grant is approximately $1.5 million with a 30% match coming from SPLOST funds.

• Resolution to approve the exercise of Eminent Domain to acquire in Fee Simple the property commonly known as 1830 First Avenue and 1844 First Avenue. The properties will be designated the Jefferson Long Park which will provide green space for the neighborhood.

• The County Attorney will pursue the idea of placing a sign on Haywood Road that will read “Marshall Stenson Jr. Memorial Way” which will not change the name of the street.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to transfer the parcel of property at 4664 Sheraton Drive to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority

• **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to transfer the parcel of property at 4664 Sheraton Drive to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Authority; 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.**

B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the purpose of applying for State allocated funds to be used for the paving and maintenance of public roads under the 2015 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG)
• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the purpose of applying for State allocated funds to be used for the paving and maintenance of public roads under the 2015 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant ("LMIG") Program in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; for other purposes.

ACTION:


C. Resolution authorizing elected officials of Macon-Bibb County to be covered under Workers’ Compensation

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing elected officials of Macon-Bibb County to be covered under Workers’ Compensation; repealing Resolutions for parts of Resolutions in conflict; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:


D. 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 Board of Commissioners to adopt the Macon-Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element update; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


E. Resolution to authorize and approve a consulting agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Owen Lewis Consulting for a maximum of $197,920 for professional consulting services for the Courts Software Project

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize and approve a consulting agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Owen Lewis Consulting for a maximum of one hundred ninety seven thousand nine hundred twenty dollars and 00/100 ($197,920.00) for professional consulting services for the Courts Software Project; 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.**

F. Ordinance granting a Franchise to Oconee Electric Membership Corporation

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

G. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority for Park Development Services at Pinnacle Park for $100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority for Park Development Services at Pinnacle Park for $100,000 in Community Development Block Grant 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.**

H. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and Rebuilding Macon, Inc. for Minor Home Repair Services for $120,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and Rebuilding Macon, Inc. for Minor Home Repair Services for $120,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant funds; and for other purposes.**

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry**

I. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and Home First Housing Resource Center Services, Inc. for Housing Services for $53,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Economic and Community Development Department and Home First Housing Resource Services, Inc. for housing services for $53,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**


J. Resolution commending the Friends of Tattnall Square Park for its exceptional service; approving its plans to improve Tattnall Square Park

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission commending the Friends of Tattnall Square Park for its exceptional service; approving its plans to improve Tattnall Square Park; and for other purposes.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Lucas thanked the Friends of Tattnall Square Park for their willingness to assist and provide guidance to the Friends of the Rosa Jackson Center and Friends of East Macon Park in their endeavors to beautify and improve their parks.

**ACTION:**


K. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a commercial lease contract with Bob Lewis and Associates for office space located at 145 First Street to be occupied by the Georgia Cooperative Extension Services

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute a commercial lease contract with Bob Lewis and Associates for office space located at 145 First Street to be occupied by the Georgia Cooperative Extension Services; in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**

- Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry

L. Resolution to approve the exercise of eminent domain to acquire in Fee Simple the property commonly known as 1830 First Avenue and 1844 First Avenue

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to approve the exercise of Eminent Domain to acquire in Fee Simple the property commonly known as 1830 First Avenue and 1844 First Avenue, Macon-Bibb County, Georgia; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


M. Resolution to consent to an agreement between the Macon-Bibb Committee of Division A of the Macon-Bibb County Pension and Retirement System and Independent Portfolio Consultants, Inc. to provide investment consulting

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to consent to an agreement between the Macon-Bibb Committee of Division A of the Macon-Bibb County Pension and Retirement System and Independent Portfolio Consultants, Inc. to provide investment consulting services; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


N. Resolution to authorize and approve the selection of Independent Portfolio Consultants, Inc. as the investment consultant for the Macon-Bibb County Employees Retirement System Fund Assets, subject to the agreement containing a thirty (30) day notice of termination provision

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize and approve the selection of Independent Portfolio Consultants, Inc. as the investment consultant for the Macon-Bibb County Employees Retirement System Fund Assets, subject to the agreement containing a thirty (30) day notice of termination provision; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

O. Resolution confirming an agreement between Macon-Bibb County Fire and Police Department Employees' Retirement System and Independent Portfolio Consultants, Inc. to provide investment consulting services

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission confirming an agreement between Macon-Bibb County Fire and Police Department Employees' Retirement System and Independent Portfolio Consultants, Inc. to provide investment consulting services; and for other purposes

**ACTION:**


P. Resolution submitting Dr. Shantel Whitby, Doug Dunwody, and Andy Nations as the three eligible nominees to fill the position presently occupied by Dr. Alvin Sewell on the Board of the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission submitting Dr. Shantel Whitby, Doug Dunwody, and Andy Nations as the three eligible nominees to fill the position presently occupied by Dr. Alvin Sewell on the Board of the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**


Q. Resolution submitting David Danzie, Albert Abrams, and Steve Kruger as the three eligible nominees to fill the position presently occupied by David Danzie on the Board of the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission submitting David Danzie, Albert Abrams, and Steve Kruger as the three eligible nominees to fill the position presently occupied by David Danzie on the Board of the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority; and for other purposes.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Lucas stated other folk should have an opportunity to serve and the Commissioners should be given the opportunity to nominate appointees going forward.

**ACTION:**

R. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with Pyles Plumbing and Utility Contractors, Inc. to repair damage to the storm water drainage infrastructure on Lee Road in the amount of $78,218.00

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with Pyles Plumbing and Utility Contractors, Inc. to repair damage to the storm water drainage infrastructure on Lee Road in the amount of $78,218.00; and for other purposes.

**ACTION:**


**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Hybrid Vehicle and a 2015 15-Passenger Van for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $53,493.12 to be paid from SPLOST funds

*Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee*

B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the purchase of a 2015 Fire Investigator Vehicle and a 2015 SUV for use by the Fire Department in the amount of $62,750.00 to be paid from SPLOST Funds

*Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee*

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rev. Larry Tard stated his organization was interested in acquiring blighted properties to be used as a tool to teach and provide work skills to At-Risk youth and young adults.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M.