Tuesday, March 25, 2014
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Schlesinger - Chairman
Commissioner Tillman - Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Lucas
Commissioner Watkins
Commissioner DeFore

1. Approval of Minutes

Subject: A. Approval of the Minutes from the March 11, 2014 Meeting
Meeting: Mar 25, 2014 - ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Category: 1. Approval of Minutes
Access: Public
Type: Minutes

Administrative File Attachments
3-11-2014.pdf (13 KB)

2. Resolution Making An Appointment to the Urban Development Authority

Subject: A. Appointment of Kay Gerhardt to the Urban Development Authority
Meeting: Mar 25, 2014 - ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Category: 2. Resolution Making An Appointment to the Urban Development Authority
Access: Public
Type: Action

File Attachments
3-25-2014 - Urban Development Authority Appointment.pdf (73 KB)
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 11, 2014

The Economic and Community Development Committee was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Committee Chairman Schlesinger, Chairman of the Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman

OTHERS PRESENT:
Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Dale Walker
Charles Coney, Asst. County Manager
Steve Layson, Asst. County Manager
Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager
Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager
Judd Drake, County Attorney
Sheila Thurmond, Clerk of the Commission
Jean Howard, Asst. Clerk of the Commission
Janice Ross, Training and Events Coordinator
Wanzina Jackson, ECD
Crystal Jones, Asst. County Attorney
Chris Johnson, Sr. Asst. County Attorney
Danny Thompson, Sheriff's Office
Charlotte Woody, ECD
Ben Hubbard, Human Resources Director
David Forson, County Engineer
Chief Russell Nelson, Sheriff's Office

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins

NEWS MEDIA:
Jim Gaines, The Telegraph
Anita Oh, 13 WMAZ

VISITORS/GUESTS: –
Theron Ussery, SPLOST Advisory Committee
Andrew Blasovich
Jeanetta Watson, Election Supervisor
Gene Dunwoody, Dunwoody and Beeland

1. Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2014.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously with Commissioners Schlesinger, Tillman and Lucas voting in the affirmative, the minutes of February 25, 2014 were approved.

2. Resolution Regarding Open Containers At Cherry Blossom Music Festival

The Macon, Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival requested that alcoholic beverages be available at the Cherry Blossom Music Festival. These will be purchased from participating businesses in the downtown business area. Festival-goers will be able to carry their beverages from various downtown locations during the event.
ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously with Commissioners Schlesinger, Tillman, and DeFore voting in the affirmative, the resolution authorizing the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. to hold the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in Downtown Macon, Georgia on Saturday, March 29, 2014, to permit Festival-Goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of Downtown Macon, was approved.

3. A Resolution in Support of Expansion of Ocmulgee National Monument

Andrew Blascovich addressed the need to have the Commission’s support in order to expand the boundary of the Ocmulgee National Monument which could dramatically increase the economic impact of the Ocmulgee Monument on Macon – Bibb County. If successful, Ocmulgee would be the first National Monument in the state of Georgia. The Ocmulgee Monument is presently 800 acres and the hope is to expand the boundary another 1,500 acres bringing it to a total of 2,300 acres.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously with Commissioners Schlesinger, Tillman and Lucas voting in the affirmative, the resolution to express support of the Alternative “B” Ocmulgee National Monument Boundary Expansion and endorsing the Park and Preserve Concept to protect and eventually connect and consolidate lands between Macon and Hawkinsville, was approved.

4. Update on Demolition of Houses

Wanzna Jackson and Charlotte Woody presented an update on the process for demolition of houses. In order to demolish a house, Lis Pendens must be recorded in Superior Court at the start of an Abatement Case. ECD could also introduce a Condemnation Order in Municipal Court for the dwelling to be demolished or repaired. A Notice of Condemnation sent to owner and Property plucked is placed on the dwelling. The property is placed on the Condemnation Listing.

Condemnation listing is reviewed to identify properties that meet priority qualifications. Ms. Woody pointed out that priority qualifications include severity of violations, impact on neighborhood, crime reports, length of time in violation, and location of the violation. Emergency Demolitions override priority qualifications. Ownership checked and Notice of Demolition is sent to owner with a short comment period. If property is sold or changes hand, the new owners are given 30 days to present a plan for a condemned property or ECD proceeds. ECD must finalize active demolition list to begin demo process and funding must be identified for the project. The next step is a contractor is selected and provide listing to begin mapping out a plan.

Total allocation for FY 2014 for ECD Demolition and Board-Ups is $425,500 from the General Fund, $150,000 in CDBG Funds. Total amount remaining in ECD Demolition and Board Up accounts is $128,548.10.

Ms. Woody reported that the number of properties added in FY 2014 to Condemnation Listing was 115 properties. The number of pending condemnation court cases is 26 cases and the number of properties demolished by City or Owner Demolition is 73.

Mayor Reichert thanked Ms. Woody and Ms. Jackson for their presentation.

Commissioner Lucas asked for an update on the Senior Citizens Center at the next meeting.
There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of the Commission
A RESOLUTION OF THE MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION APPOINTING
KAY GERHARDT TO THE MACON-BIBB COUNTY URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Macon-Bibb County Commission,
and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of the same that pursuant to Section 3 of 1974 Ga.
Laws page 3093, Mayor Reichert's appointment of Kay Gerhardt to the Macon-Bibb County
Urban Development Authority is hereby approved.

SO RESOLVED this _____ day of ________________, 2014.

ROBERT A.B. REICHERT, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

Clerk of the Commission