MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION  
February 3, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.  
Government Center  
(Commission Chamber)

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on February 3, 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 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  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs  
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr – Infrastructure  
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr – Operations  
Jean S. Howard – Interim Clerk of Commission  
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator  
Trae McCombs – Public Affairs

Guests in Attendance  
Brittney Childs – Industrial Authority  
Tommy Barnes  
Mrs. Patricia Galloway  
Dr. Beverly Stewart  
Mrs. Roberta Jones, Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Beau participants of the 2015 Beautillion

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 Reverend Tommy Mason of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS students Amelia Smith of Central High School and Sherrod Hollingshed of Rutland High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on January 20, 2015
B. Regular Commission Meeting on January 20, 2015

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 January 20, 2015 were approved as presented.


INVITED GUESTS

Reverend Tommy Mason of Mulberry Street United Methodist Church was invited to render the prayer for tonight’s meeting.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas presented a Proclamation in recognition of “National School Counseling Week” to school counselors Mrs. Patricia Galloway and Dr. Beverly Stewart representing Macon-Bibb County School Counselors. Mayor Reichert thanked the Counselors for the services they render to our community.

Commissioner Bert Bivins, along with Commissioners Tillman and Watkins, presented a Proclamation in recognition of Black History Month to Mrs. Sarah Hunt. The Proclamation recognized and paid tribute to the many contributions of African Americans to our country. Mrs. Hunt stated Black History should be taught every day of the year to recognize the many contributions of African Americans.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. introduced Mrs. Roberta Jones, chairperson of the 2015 annual Beautillion Scholarship Program, which is a scholarship program to raise and provide scholarships to deserving high school students in the Middle Georgia area who plan to seek higher education. She introduced the 2015 Master Beau’s, ages 7-12, and Beau’s, high school students, participating in this year’s program. Ms. Jones stated that the Beaux are provided educational, cultural, civic, social and religious activities as part of the scholarship program. Their attendance at tonight’s Commission meeting was one of the activities included for political awareness.

Mayor Reichert presented a Proclamation in recognition the many attributes and contributions of Mr. Tracy Barlow to the Macon Housing Authority. Due to illness, Mr. Barlow was unable to attend tonight’s meeting and the original Proclamation was sent to him. It was noted that Mr. Barlow began his career with the Housing Authority August 5, 1960 and served in many...
capacities during his tenure. He presided over $120 million dollars in major capital improvements to public housing resulting in the transformation of entire neighborhoods and assumed principal responsibility for over two decades for the development of five new public housing projects including construction management services to HOPE VI and other non-traditional housing developments. In his honor, the Board of Commissioners of Macon-Bibb County Housing Authority is designating its Central Office Maintenance facility as the “Tracy Barlow Technical Services Building.”

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, January 27, 2015 and reported/recommended approval of the following:

- The Committee heard a report from Davenport and Company on proposed plan for Financing, Refinancing, and restructuring of County finances.

- Approved the Resolution to a request to refund penalties, interest and fees for 5409 Columbus Road for $317.22.

- Approved the position of Witness Advocate for the Juvenile Justice cases in the District Attorney’s Office using District Attorney Confiscated Funds until July 1, 2015.

- Approved agreements with Sizemore Group for architectural services at Freedom Park.

- Accepted grants for a Fact-Finding trip to Detroit in the amount of $10,000 to study blight, an Emergency Management directed training grant of $500, a 2015 H.E.A.T. grant for $53,900 from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety to the Macon-Bibb County Sheriff’s Office.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

- Ordinance amending the Code regarding “Motorized Carts” for the purpose of allowing motorized carts on designated public roads under certain terms and conditions.

- The appointment of William Vaughn to the Board of Tax Assessors.
• Opposition to the reduction of polling precincts was approved. A letter was composed by Commissioner Schlesinger to the Board of Elections voicing the Committee’s desire to delay the closing of precincts.

• Approved the Resolution for the Local Legislative Delegation to review the rejection of funds which would allow Medicaid Expansion in Georgia. A letter was composed to the delegation requesting that they review the rejection of funds for Medicaid Expansion.

• The Committee heard a report on filming in Macon-Bibb County and an Ad Hoc Committee will be formed to work with film crews and the local film commission. Commissioner Lucas was asked to head up the Ad Hoc Committee.

Public Safety Committee

No Report

Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Vice Chairman Mallory Jones reported the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

• Approved a Resolution approving the architectural designs and renovations to Daisy Park. This includes closing a portion of Daisy Park to through traffic, improvements in landscaping and the replacement of the basketball court in the Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Alcoholic Beverage License for BC Express Mart located at 6999 Knoxville Road, Lizella, GA 31052

ACTION:


OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance to appropriate $13,5000 from DA Confiscated Fund Balance to the Office of District Attorney to fund Victim Witness Advocate

• Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Commission Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $13,500 from DA Confiscated Fund Balance to the Office of District Attorney to fund Victim Witness Advocate.
ACTION:


B. Resolution to approve or deny a request to refund penalties, interest and fees assessed against 5409 Columbus Road in the amount of $317.22

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to approve or deny a request to refund penalties, interest and fees assessed against 5409 Columbus Road in the amount of $317.22; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

- Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Mallory Jones, III, and Scotty Shepherd voted NO.

C. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Sizemore Group, LLC for $20,950 for architectural services at Freedom Park

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Sizemore Group, LLC for twenty thousand nine hundred fifty dollars and NO/100 ($20,950.00) for architectural services at Freedom in Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


D. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the GA Department of Transportation for an Interstate Lighting System to be installed on Interstate 75 from SR 247/Pierce Avenue to CR 85/Arkwright Road

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for an Interstate Lighting System to be installed on Interstate 75 from SR 247/Pierce Avenue to CR 85/Arkwright Road with Macon-Bibb County being responsible for providing energy, operation, and maintenance for said lighting system and the Georgia Department of Transportation being responsible for the design and installation of said lighting system; 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.**

E. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the sponsorship of Fact-Finding Trip to Detroit Grant in the amount of $10,000 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Mayor’s Office

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the sponsorship of Fact-Finding Trip to Detroit Grant in the Amount of $10,000 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Mayor’s Office; 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. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Emergency Management Directed Training Grant in the amount of $500 awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the Emergency Management Directed Training Grant in the amount of $500 awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency (EMA); 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.**

G. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the 2015 H.E.A.T. Grant in the amount of $53,900 awarded from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety to the Macon-Bibb County Sheriff’s Office

- **Clerk read by caption:** A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the 2015 H.E.A.T. Grant in the amount of $53,900 awarded from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety to the Macon-Bibb County Sheriff’s Office; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

- **Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry**
H. Ordinance to appropriate $82,140 from Fund Balance to the Capital Improvement Fund (for Traffic Signal Cabinets)

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $82,140 from Fund Balance to the Capital Improvement Fund.

ACTION:


I. Ordinance to appropriate $142,600 from SPLOST Fund Balance to John Drew Tennis Center

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to appropriate $142,600 from SPLOST Fund Balance to the John Drew Tennis Center

ACTION:


J. Resolution reappointing William C. Vaughn II to the Macon-Bibb County Board of Tax Assessors

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission reappointing William C. Vaughn II to the Macon Bibb County Board of Tax Assessors; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


K. Ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances to include a new Article being entitled Article V “Motorized Carts” for the purpose of allowing Motorized Carts on designated public roads under certain terms and conditions

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission amending Chapter 28 of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances to include a new Article with said Article being entitled being entitled Article V “Motorized Carts” for the purpose of allowing Motorized Carts on designated public roads
under certain terms and conditions; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Tillman stated his Committee, Facilities and Engineering, had rejected this item twice and had Tabled it once. He was also concerned with a requested street lighting report and the concerns of law enforcement with allowing motorized carts and felt the community did not need motorized carts at this time. Mayor Reichert stated the Ordinance had been amended in Committee to change the effective date to June 1st to further look at the allowable streets. Commissioner Lucas stated the use of motorized carts have merit in some neighborhoods such as golf communities, closed-in, but has serious concerns with their use in heavily traveled areas. She suggested maybe a pilot program should be tried first. She further stated law enforcement had serious concerns and it would require them to have additional manpower for permitting, and other safety requirements.

Commissioner Lucas motioned to Table the Ordinance for further review and study due to her concerns about public safety, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tillman.

ACTION:

- The motion to Table failed by a 5-4
- Commissioners Bivins, Bechtel, Schlesinger DeFore, and Watkins voted NO.
- Commissioners Lucas, Tillman, Jones, and Shepherd voted YES.

Commissioner Lucas asked that a Public Hearing be held prior to enactment to allow the public to have input. Mayor Reichert stated he was confident in having a public hearing.

- Approval of the Ordinance as amended in the Economic and Community Development Committee by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Ed DeFore, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.,
- Commissioners Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, and Al Tillman voted NO.
- The Ordinance passed by a vote of 5-4.

L. Resolution adopting the initial list of authorized streets for the use of Motorized Carts

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission adopting the initial list of authorized streets for the use of motorized Carts; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

- Commissioner Lucas motioned to amend the Resolution to add approval be subject to a Public Hearing on the selection of public streets; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins to add a Public Hearing to the Resolution.

- Approval on the motion to amend by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.
- Commissioner Gary Bechtel voted NO.
• Approval on the main motion by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Ed DeFore, and Virgil Watkins, Jr.
• Commissioners Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, and Al Tillman voted NO.
• The Resolution passed by a vote of 5-4.

M. Resolution approving the design features and renovation efforts at Daisy Park

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving the design features and renovation efforts at Daisy Park; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


N. Resolution requesting the Local Legislative Delegation oppose legislation seeking to transfer local sales tax proceeds on motor fuel sale to the State’s use and benefit

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation oppose Legislation seeking to transfer local sales tax proceeds on motor fuel sales to the State’s use and benefit; and for other legal purposes.

ACTION:


On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, and seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, to add the Resolution on Medicaid Expansion, which was inadvertently left off the agenda, to tonight’s agenda for action as item O.

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 to add Item O to the agenda.

O. Resolution requesting the Local Legislative Delegation review the rejection of funds which would allow Medicaid Expansion in Georgia and conduct further inquiry regarding the positive benefits that will result to Middle Georgia and other Georgia hospitals

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting the that the Local Legislative Delegation review the rejection of
funds which would allow Medicaid Expansion in Georgia; requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation conduct further inquiry regarding the positive benefits that will result to Middle Georgia and other Georgia hospitals as a result of Medicaid Expansion; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:

- Commissioner Gary Bechtel voted NO.

NEW BUSINESS

A. A Resolution authorizing the closure of a portion of Third Street Lane to vehicular traffic only near the W. A. Bootle Federal Courthouse for safety purposes

Referred to the Facilities and Engineering Committee

B. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Wal-Mart Grant in the amount of $1,000 awarded to the Sheriff’s Office

Referred to the Operations and Finance Committee

C. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Triple Triangle Master Plan paving of the basketball court in Daisy Park Grant in the amount of $14,835.39 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Parks and Recreation Department

Referred to the Operations and Finance Committee

D. A Resolution to support “Banning the Box” on Macon-Bibb County Employment applications by requiring the removal of inquiries about criminal history, charges, and convictions from initial job applications submitted by County applicants

Referred to the Operations and Finance Committee

E. A Resolution to work with the Local Legislative Delegation to address public concerns regarding Senate Bill 440 (also known as “The Seven Deadly Sins Act”) and Senate Bill 441 (also known as “The Two Strikes Act”)

Referred to the Public Safety Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Sarah Hunt spoke on Commissioners attendance and pay.

Mr. Edward Holt spoke on youth violence and urged youths to strive to be best they could be and listen to adults to guide them in the right path.
Patricia Faye Brown spoke on slavery and crime.

Dr. Lindsay Holliday spoke on the MATS Committee and the expansion of the runways at Middle Georgia Regional Airport.

Cynthia D. Knight spoke on economic development opportunities for Macon-Bibb County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.


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Jean S. Howard
Interim Clerk of Commission