

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
February 4, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Commission Chamber)**

The Regular Meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on February 4, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert	Commissioner Ed DeFore
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins, III	Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Gary Bechtel	Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Elaine Lucas	Commissioner Al Tillman
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III	Commissioner Larry Schlesinger

Staff Present

Dale Walker – County Manager
Julie Moore – Asst. to Co. Mgr., Strategic Planning & Budget
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Stuart Morelli – Asst. County Attorney
Charles Coney – Asst. County Manager – Operations
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr., Public Affairs
Don Druitt – EMA Director
Rodney Roberson – Deputy EMA Director
Sam Henderson – Exec. Asst. to the Commissioners
Grant Faulkner – Information Technology
Sam Kitchens – Buildings & Properties
Robbie Ryals – Buildings & Properties
Cliff Howard – Engineering Operations

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Katelyn Heck – 13 WMAZ

Guests In Attendance

Gwennette Westbrooks – President, Macon NAACP
Erica Woodford – Clerk, Bibb Superior Court
Lucille Clark
Freeman Lester

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Rev. David Stanley of Union Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Gary Bechtel, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on January 21st and Special Called Meeting on January 28th were approved as presented.

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.

RECOGNITION OF INVITED GUESTS

Rev. David Stanley of Union Baptist Church

Rev. Stanley was invited to provide the prayer for tonight's Regular Commission meeting.

Don Druitt, EMA Director, EMA Staff and EMA Partners

Mayor Reichert presented a Proclamation proclaiming the week of February 3-7, 2014 as Severe Weather Awareness Week to Emergency Management Agency Director Don Druitt, his staff, and other Emergency Management Agency partners. The Mayor expressed his and the Commissioners' appreciation for their hard work and services provided throughout the community, and especially on last week during the ice storm. Accompanying Director Druitt were: Deputy Director, Rodney Roberson; EMA Volunteers President, Bob Bradley; volunteers: Tracey Tharpe, James Swint, Clarence Hike, Bo Stanley, Ron Barthelt, Wes Patton, Bonnie Canady, Joe Sledge, Ed Barbee, and Don Cumbie. Director Druitt also thanked the Volunteer Response Team for services rendered in the aftermath of the ice storm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chairman Bechtel reported his committee met last week and elected officers. Gary Bechtel was elected Chairman and Commissioner Elaine Lucas was elected Vice-Chair. The other committee members are Commissioners: Virgil Watkins, Scotty Shepherd, and Larry Schlesinger.

The Committee dealt with qualifying fees for offices during the upcoming March qualifying

period. This needed to be done quickly so the fees could be properly posted to make the qualifying fees known to those seeking office. He also reported Jeannetta Watson, Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections Supervisor, presented her budgetary needs to the Committee. It was recommended that the County Manager and his staff review the numbers and bring their findings back to the committee for further discussion at their next meeting on February 11th.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported his committee met on Tuesday January 28th and elected officers. Commissioner Larry Schlesinger was elected Chairman and Commissioner Al Tillman was elected Vice Chair. The other committee members are Commissioners: Elaine Lucas, Virgil Watkins, and Ed DeFore. He reported that Commissioner Lucas asked for an update or report on seniors' facilities programming, as well as the recreation master plan. He stated this would probably be on his committee's agenda at their next meeting on February 11th.

Public Safety Committee

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported his committee met on last week and elected officers. Scotty Shepherd was elected Chairman and Commissioner Virgil Watkins was elected Vice Chair. The other committee members are Commissioners: Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, and Larry Schlesinger.

Facilities and Engineering Committee

Committee Chairman Al Tillman reported his committee met and elected officers. Commissioner Al Tillman was elected Chairman and Commissioner Mallory Jones was elected Vice Chair. The other committee members are Commissioners: Ed DeFore, Gary Bechtel, and Scotty Shepherd.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Reichert stated that by unanimous consent Item D was moved from New Business to the Consent Agenda at tonight's meeting.

D. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to recognize the month of February 2014 as Black History Month; and for other purposes. The Mayor asked the Clerk to read the Resolution in its entirety.

- **The Clerk of Commission, Shelia Thurmond, read the Resolution in its entirety in recognition of Black History Month celebrating the individuals and occasions having a significant impact on African-American history in America.**

The Resolution was unanimous adopted by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. A Resolution for Pension Changes for New Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt the second amendment to the Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968 so as to provide for participation of employees hired on or after January 1, 2014; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

B. A Resolution calling for a Social Security Referendum.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting that the State of Georgia Social Security Coordinator be notified of Macon-Bibb County's desire to hold a referendum by its employees participating in or eligible for the Bibb County Plan and Macon Plan A, so as to allow said employees to remain covered by Social Security under a new 218 Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and the Social Security Administration; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

C. A Resolution recognizing Ingleside Baptist Church for honoring Commissioners.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb Commission to recognize with heartfelt gratitude, Dr. Tim McCoy and the people of Ingleside Baptist Church for their prayful support; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee**

D. A Resolution recognizing February 2014 as Black History Month.

- **This item was moved to the Consent Agenda by unanimous consent.**

E. A Resolution for Tax Commissioner to be delegated authority to waive certain penalties and interest.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission delegating to the Tax Commissioner of Bibb County the authority to waive the collection of amounts representing penalties and interest assessed for failure**

to pay Ad Valorem Taxes; for other purposes.

- **Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

F. A Resolution to rename Freedom Park Gym.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to rename the gym at Freedom Park in honor of Bishop Frank Ray; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee**

G. A Resolution to increase jury pay per request of Grand Jury.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission setting the compensation rate for the first day of service for Grand and Traverse Jurors at twenty-five dollars; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee**

H. A Resolution requesting that the local Legislative Delegation create Eisenhower Community Improvement District.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to request the adoption of a Local Act of the General Assembly establishing a Community Improvement District along Eisenhower Parkway between Interstate 75 and Interstate 475; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee**

I. A Resolution to adopt a policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities, and streets owned by Macon-Bibb County.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt a policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities, and streets owned by Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.**
- **Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee**

J. A Resolution to request that Macon-Bibb County issues a Request for Qualifications for consulting services to determine if a Disparity Study may be necessary.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to request that the Procurement Department issues a Request for Qualifications for consulting services to analyze existing procurement practices to determine**

if a Disparity Study may be necessary services to analyze existing procurement practices to determine if a Disparity Study may be necessary; and for other purposes.

- Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Patricia Faye Ivey Brown asked that respect be given her and her family as well as to all people throughout the world.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion by Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission