MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
June 17, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on
June 17, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. in the Large Conference Room 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, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Senior Assistant County Attorney
Opie Bowen – Assistant County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Assistant County Attorney
Sheila Thummond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Assistant County Manager (Infrastructure)
Charles Coney – Assistant County Manager (Operations)
Julie Moore – Assistant to County Manager – Budget and Strategic Planning
Chris Flore – Assistant to County Manager - Public Affairs
Jean S. Howard – Assistant Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Sam Henderson – Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Visitors Present
Nancy Terrill
Andrew Galloway
Andy Ambrose
Susan Welsh
Kevin Dowdell
Mark Butcher
Gwennnette Westbrook
Louie Hargrove
Erica Woodford
**News Media Present**

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  
Malcolm Johnson – 24 WGXA  
Sean Franklin – 41 WMGT  
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ  
Ashley Minelli – 41 WMGT  
Ron Wildman – 58 WPBA

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

The Mayor stated the meeting was being convened as a Committee of the Whole in order to take action on several items that needed to be to be added to tonight's Agenda for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation by Kevin Dowdell, Centreplex Director of Sales and Marketing, regarding Minor League Hockey in Macon, Georgia**

Kevin Dowdell, along with Mark Butcher, Macon Centreplex Manager, presented an overview of the initial talks with the Augusta RiverHawks Management team in relocating the minor league hockey team to Macon from Augusta, due to the facility there not being able to generate the ice needed to play the game of hockey, and the rental of the Coliseum for its home games and offices. Mr. Dowdell stated all documents for the rental agreement needed to be in place by next Tuesday, June 24, and further stated the Southern Professional Hockey League authorized Macon to host a franchise last week. Dowdell stated if the agreement is approved an announcement would be made next week and a local office would open in early July with the first games not being held until the fall of 2015 to allow time to get local sponsors on board and to generate enthusiasm and interest in Macon and the surrounding areas. The RiverHawks, part of the Southern Professional Hockey League, would be renamed the "Macon Mayhem."

Judd Drake, County Attorney, gave an overview of the agreement noting rental costs, termination and the right to cancel sections of the agreement. The five-year rental agreement guarantees the team at least 17 Fridays and 17 Saturdays from October to March each year. The team would retain all ticket sales revenue with all concessions and parking revenues going to the Coliseum stated Mark Butcher. Mr. Dowdell stated ticket sales had not been determined, but that the owners wanted to make it affordable for families. Mr. Butcher also stated repairs and upgrades, such as painting and carpet replacement in the locker rooms, would be paid for with SPLOST funds. Also, there will be one exhibition game in September 2015 with the proceeds being distributed to a charitable organization that has not yet been determined. A Resolution to approve the hockey agreement will be added to tonight's agenda for consideration of approval.

*Mayor Reichert stated there were three grants on the agenda for acceptance under Item 9 A, B, and C that needed to be acted on tonight. Julie Moore and Reggie McClendon stated the grants were received either the latter part of last week or the first of this week, but acceptance was needed in order to execute the grant agreements by June 23rd.*
B. Resolution to accept Grant Award to the Mental Health Court in the amount of $105,293.00 for FY ’15

C. Resolution to accept Grant Award to the Adult Drug Court in the amount of $106,920.00 for FY ’15

D. Resolution to accept Grant Award to the Juvenile Mental Health Court in the amount of $14,849.00 for FY ’15

**ACTION:**

- Commissioner Lucas motioned to approve the acceptance of all three grants. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously.


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The Mayor reviewed the agenda items for tonight’s Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**PRAYER**

A. Elder Shane Gottwals – Central Fellowship Baptist Church

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on June 3, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on June 3, 2014

**INVITED GUESTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS**

Mayor Reichert asked Committee Chairs to be prepared to give their Committee Reports tonight.
A. Operations and Finance Committee
B. Economic and Community Development Committee
C. Public Safety Committee
D. Facilities and Engineering Committee

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Alcoholic Beverage License for M & H Food Mart located at 5220 Jeffersonville Road

OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution to accept Grant Award to the Mental Health Court in the amount of $105,293.00 for FY '15

B. Resolution to accept Grant Award to the Adult Drug Court in the amount of $106,920.00 for FY '15

C. Resolution to accept Grant Award to the Juvenile Mental Health Court in the amount of $14,849.00 for FY '15

D. Resolution approving and ratifying the September 2013 Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement between the City of Macon and Cherokee Brick and Tile Company

E. Resolution authorizing the letter of agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for installation of a Roundabout at the intersection of Eisenhower Parkway and Fulton Mill Road

F. Ratification of request from the Chamber of Commerce for 100 passes to Lake Tobesokee for families of Military Troops

G. Resolution to sell property located at 484 Mulberry Street

H. Ratification of retirements for Jonathan Childers of Public Works (17 years, 9 months) and Jacqueline Smith of Superior Court (14 years, 4 months)

I. Resolution authorizing an agreement with Charles Stewart for the lease of 179.61 acres of clear zone land located within the Middle Georgia Regional Airport

J. Ratification of Supplemental Budget request from General Fund in the amount of $3,000 for Contractual Services in the Coroner's budget

K. Resolution authorizing Bragg Jam to hold its 2014 Music Festival in Downtown Macon on July 26, 2014

L. Resolution to submit the Five-Year Short Term Work Program to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission

M. Ordinance amending Chapter 18 Personnel to establish the Fire Civil Service System
N. Resolution opposing House Bill 60 a/k/a The Safe Carry Protection Act of 2014

O. Ordinance to adopt a budget and appropriate sums for the operation of the Macon-Bibb County Government for FY '15

The Mayor stated he would need a motion at the beginning of the Regular Commission meeting to add Item P to the Agenda

P. Resolution authorizing Rental Agreement for the Macon Coliseum between Noble-Interstate Management Group, LLC and Macon Hockey, LLC

Mayor Reichert stated the one big item tonight would be the 2015 Budget and stated the importance of the Budget being passed due to time constraints, considering re-advertising and meetings needed to approve the budget by June 30th. The Mayor stated virtually everyone would like to see changes made, but this budget was fair and a lot of time and effort had gone into its preparation. He further emphasized that during the budget year changes could be made as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission