The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on March 17, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

**Commission Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Dale Walker – County Manager  
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Infrastructure)  
Judd Drake - County Attorney  
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Operations)  
Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney  
Jean S. Howard – Clerk of Commission  
Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney  
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator  
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney  
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs  
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. Public Affairs  
Trae McCombs – Public Affairs  
Nyesha Dailey – Director of Procurement  
Procurement Department Staff  
Delia Bridges – Asst. Dir. of Procurement  

**Guests in Attendance**

June Parker, Executive Director - Macon Housing Authority  
Jim Gaines – The Telegraph  
Alex Morrison – Urban Development Auth.  
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ  
Sarah Hunt  
Malcolm Johnson – WGXA FOX 24  

**News Media Present**

Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA  

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRAYER**

The prayer was rendered by Pastor Rayford Johnson of Countryside Baptist Church.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS Student Zeleria Jackson of Mount de Sales Academy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on March 3, 2015
B. Regular Commission Meeting on March 3, 2015

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Gary Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on March 3, 2015 were approved as presented.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, and Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman

INVITED GUESTS

Pastor Rayford Johnson and Ms. Carrie Redmond, along with other members of the Lynmore Estates Community Association, thanked Mayor Reichert and Commissioners for their help in the revitalization of the Lynmore Estates Community. They expressed appreciation for the addition of playground equipment, park beautification projects, and other endeavors to support their community revitalization efforts. Mayor Reichert and Commissioner Schlesinger were presented Lynmore Estates tee shirts in appreciation for their efforts and support to the Lynmore Estates community.

Nyeshia Daley, Purchasing Director and Staff were presented a Proclamation and Resolution in recognition of March 2015 as Purchasing Month. Mayor Reichert invited Ms. Daley and her staff to come to the podium for the presentation. Ms. Daley and her staff were also presented the Institute for Public Procurement 25 Year Award. Mayor Reichert also asked the Clerk of Commission, Jean Howard, to read the Resolution in its entirety.

The Mayor asked for Consent to move the Resolution recognizing March 2015 as Purchasing Month to the Invited Guests section of the Agenda. Unanimous approval was given.

A. A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2015 as Purchasing Month

ACTION:

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to recognize the month of March as Purchasing Month; and 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, and Virgil
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Sarah Hunt thanked the Mayor and Commissioners, with special thanks and appreciation to Assistant County Attorney Reggie McClendon on behalf of the Overcoming Church of God for their assistance and due diligence to facilitate the renaming of a portion of Wood Street to Bishop John L. Cotton Way.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Gary Bechtel reported that the Operations and Finance Committee met on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 and reported/recommended approval of the following:

- The resolution confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Pearlie Tolliver to Post Seven of the Retirement Committee for the Macon Pension and Retirement Systems, Division A for the remainder of the unexpired term of outgoing Chairperson Lauren Benedict was approved.

- The ordinance amending Article 1, Chapter 18, to codify language regarding the “Ban the Box” initiative, to update the application process for the employment of ex-offenders was approved.

- The ordinance to amend Section 8.09 to read “Any Macon-Bibb County department head may, at their discretion and subject to the approval of the Mayor grant administrative leave to personnel under his or her supervision with pay, under extraordinary circumstances. Leave under this section may not exceed a total of five (5) days in any one calendar year. This provision shall be applied retroactively to February 1, 2015” was approved.

- The resolution authorizing the acceptance of the sponsorship for three staff members to attend the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference in Detroit Grant in the amount of $5,000 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Mayor’s Office was approved.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:
• The Resolution to authorize the Mayor to accept the donation of the Little Richard Penniman House from the Georgia Department of Transportation, to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents was approved.

• The Resolution to authorize the relocation and/or demolishment of the structure located at 1790 First Avenue; to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents was approved

• 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 28, 2015; to permit festival-goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of downtown Macon was approved

• The Committee also heard an update on Blight and the Senior Citizens Center

**Public Safety Committee**

Committee Chairman Scotty Shepherd reported that the Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

• The Committee heard an update from Traffic Division On Traffic Fatalities and Prevention Actions Being Taken

• The Committee is working to form a Committee to Include Health Department, Sheriff Deputy, Two Commissioners (One on Health / One on Public Safety) traffic Engineers Office and Others Yet Unknown To Work On Prevention Of Traffic Fatalities

• The Committee also heard a report on the amount of crime in the area surround the former Gilead Academy. In the time period of January 2014 to January 2015 the report showed there was one aggravated assault, four auto thefts, one commercial burglary, one entering auto, nine residential burglary and 6 theft by takings.

**Facilities and Engineering Committee**

Committee Chairman Mallory Jones reported that the Facilities and Engineering Committee met on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

• The Committee heard a report on the drainage problems on Cambridge Court. The owners will contact Barrington Hall Golf Club to resolve the issues. No action is required by the Commission
CONSENT AGENDA

A. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for All American Quality Foods, Inc. d/b/a Food Depot #6 located at 4015 Northside Drive, Macon, GA 31210

B. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Dhanshree Investments d/b/a R & D Food Mart #2 located at 36 Spring Street, Macon, GA 31201

C. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Marco’s Pizza located at 6394 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 3120

D. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Log Cabin 4691 Inc. d/b/a Sunoco Food Mart located at 4691 4691 Log Cabin Drive, Macon, GA 31204

E. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for Kum O Jung Enterprise LLC d/b/a Kum O Restaurant located 7275 Hawkinsville Road, Macon, GA 31216

ACTION:


OLD BUSINESS

A. A Resolution confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Pearlie Tolliver to Post Seven of the Retirement Committee for Macon Pensions and Retirement Systems, Division A for the remainder of the unexpired term of outgoing Chairperson Lauren Benedict

• Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Pearlie Tolliver to Post Seven of the Retirement Committee for the Macon Pensions and Retirement Systems, Division A, (1972 GA Laws, page 3152, as amended) for the remainder of the unexpired; term of outgoing Chairperson Lauren Benedict; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


B. An Ordinance amending Article I Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to codify language regarding the “Ban the Box” initiative; to update the application process for employment of ex-offenders with Macon-Bibb County

• Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission amending Article I Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances of Macon-Bibb
County, Georgia to codify language regarding the “Ban the Box” initiative; to update the application process for the employment of ex-offenders with Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.

ACTION:

- Commissioners Gary Bechtel and Scotty Shepherd voted NO.

C. An Ordinance to amend the Macon-Bibb County Government Policies and Procedures Manual’s Section 8: Leave, by adding Section 8.09 Administrative Leave

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend the Macon-Bibb County Government Policies and Procedures Manual’s Section 8: Leave, by adding Section 8.09 Administrative Leave; and for other lawful purposes.

ACTION:


D. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the sponsorship for 3 staff members to attend the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference in Detroit Grant in the amount of $5,000 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 for 3 staff members to attend the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference in Detroit Grant in the amount of $5,000 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Mayor’s Office; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


E. An Ordinance to approve an amendment to the Economic and Community Development Department CDBG Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

- Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Mayor and Commission of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to approve an amendment to the Economic and Community Development Department CDBG Budget for Fiscal Year 2015; and for other purposes.
ACTION:


F. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to accept the donation of the Little Richard Penniman House from the Georgia Department of Transportation; to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to accept the donation of the Little Richard Penniman House from the Georgia Department of Transportation; to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


G. A Resolution to authorize the relocation or possible demolition of the structure located at 1790 First Avenue; to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the relocation of the structure located at 1790 First Avenue; to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents; and for other purposes.

ACTION:


H. A Resolution authorizing the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. to hold the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in Downtown Macon, Georgia, on Saturday, March 28, 2015; to permit festival-goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of downtown Macon

- Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. to hold the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in downtown Macon, Georgia, on Saturday, March 28, 2015; to permit festival-goers to carry and consume alcoholic beverages in and about the designated streets of downtown Macon; and for other purposes.

- Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil...
I. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Oasis Consulting for the development of Pinnacle Park for $77,850.00 to be paid from 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 with Oasis Consulting for the development of Pinnacle Park for $77,850.00 to be paid from Community Development Block Grant funds; and for other purposes.

   ACTION:


J. A Resolution to rename a portion of Wood Street to Bishop John L. Cotton Way

   • Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to rename a portion of Wood Street to Bishop John L. Cotton Way; and for other purposes.

   ACTION:


K. A Resolution requesting the Governor of Georgia to authorize the necessary Referendum among eligible employees to remain covered by Social Security under a new 218 Agreement

   • Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting the Governor of Georgia to authorize the necessary Referendum among eligible employees 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.

   ACTION:


NEW BUSINESS

A. A Resolution approving the design features and renovation plans for the Filmore Thomas Recreation Area
Referred to the Economic and Community Development Committee

B. A Resolution authorizing the exchange of property owned by Macon-Bibb County located at 1283 Adams Street for properties owned by the Corporation of Mercer University located at 1470 Telfair Street, 1217 Second Street, 1239 Second Street, 806-818 Edgewood Avenue, 834 Edgewood Avenue, and 606 Hazel Street in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia pursuant to the requirements of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances 19-12 and O.C.G.A. 36-37-6 (c); and providing that an additional $712,000 in SPLOST Project Funds shall be allocated to the new Senior Center SPLOST Project from the Second Street Corridor SPLOST Project

Referred to the Operations and Finance Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Leroy Thomas, III spoke on his concerns regarding blight, new senior center, and diversity for all.

Former Mayor C. Jack Ellis commended the Mayor and Commission on the Filmore Thomas recreation plans. He cautioned use of Greenspace funds at the Filmore Thomas site. He also encouraged the media and others to use the proper names of those honored by the naming of buildings and parks named in honor of Henry McNeil Turner, the first African American from Macon to serve in the U.S. Senate, and Jefferson Long, the first African American from Macon to serve in Congress. He also express concerns on previous SPLOST dollars allocated for the Little Richard Penniman Connector. He also offered potential revenue sources for the County.

Dr. Lindsay Holliday spoke on SPLOST allocation for the Mercer University pedestrian bridge.

Robert Curry stated his concerns for the new location of the senior center at Gilead Academy, the safety of Log Cabin Drive, and the new Mercer University pedestrian bridge.

Patricia Faye Ivy Brown spoke on her need for freedom.

William Perry, Common Cause for Georgia, announced that Common Cause will be in Macon on April 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to ask for support to reform the State Ethics Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.


Jean S. Howard
Clerk of Commission