Tuesday, April 22, 2014
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Scotty Shepherd - Chairman
Commissioner Virgil Watkins - Vice Chairman
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Dale Walker - Staff Contact

1. Approval of Minutes

Subject A. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on April 8, 2014
Meeting Apr 22, 2014 - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Category 1. Approval of Minutes
Access Public
Type Minutes

File Attachments
4-8-2014.pdf (10 KB)

2. Fire Civil Service System

Subject A. An Ordinance to Establish the Fire Civil Service System
Meeting Apr 22, 2014 - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Category 2. Fire Civil Service System
Access Public
Type Action
The Public Safety Committee was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by Committee Chairman Shepherd.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Commissioner Mallory Jones  
Commissioner Elaine Lucas  
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger  
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd  
Commissioner Virgil Watkins

**OTHERS PRESENT:**
Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert  
Commissioner Al Tillman  
Commissioner Gary Bechtel  
Commissioner Ed DeFore  
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Brivins  
Dale Walker, County Manager  
Chief Marvin Riggins, Fire Department  
Charles Coney, Asst. County Manager  
Col. Mike Carswell, Sheriff's Office  
Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager  
Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager  
Judd Drake, County Attorney  
Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Commission  
Jean Howard, Asst. Clerk of the Commission  
Crystal Jones, Asst. County Attorney  
Ben Hubbard, Human Resources Director  
Asst. Chief Shane Edwards, Fire Department  
Lt. Demetrius Ellison  
Cathy Nelson

**NEWS MEDIA:**
Jim Gaines, The Telegraph  
Anita Oh, 13 WMAZ  
Angie Ragle FOX 24 WGXA

**VISITORS/GUESTS:**
Theron Ussery, SPLOST Advisory Committee  
Adah Roberts  
Merritt Johnson

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1. Approval of Minutes

**ACTION:**

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Watkins, and carried unanimously with Commissioners Lucas, Shepherd and Jones voting in the affirmative, the minutes of the March 11, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

2. Ordinance to establish the Fire Civil Service System

Commissioner Shepherd stated no action would be taken on the establishment of the Civil Service System for the Fire Department at today's meeting as he and Chief Riggins had not had a chance to sit down and discuss the matter, and that he was still interviewing interested parties.

Mayor Reichert and County Attorney Drake stated that though the Charter for the new government required a Civil Service Board for the Fire Department, Commissioners could change that to option instead of a requirement through the home rule provision of the Charter. Attorney Drake will draw up an Ordinance to change the language from "shall" to "may" to encompass changes by the Commissioners.
Commissioner Shepherd stated there is strong sentiment among firefighters for a Civil Service promotion system as is presently used by the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Tillman stated that was a result of firemen feeling that the present testing system is unfair.

Chief Riggins would like to maintain the present promotional system, of which testing is a component, because, in his opinion, it is a fair promotional process. He stated all eligible candidates are provided the same study materials, allotted study time, and orientation. He also stated outside agencies in close proximity, but not contiguous to Macon-Bibb County, pick five applicants to recommend to him for consideration.

Mayor Reichert added that the testing process in place now is a result of lawsuits filed and that the present process has worked.

There being no further business, and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Sheila Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of the Commission