Tuesday, March 25, 2014
MACON - BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION WORK SESSION

1. Approval of Minutes

Subject: A. Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2014, February 11, 2014 and March 11, 2014 Meetings
Meeting: Mar 25, 2014 - MACON - BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
Category: 1. Approval of Minutes
Access: Public
Type: Minutes

File Attachments:
1-14-2014 Work Session.pdf (13 KB)    2-11-2014 - Work Session.pdf (14 KB)
3-11-2014 - Work Session.pdf (22 KB)

2. Riverside Development Property

Subject: A. Riverside Development Property
Meeting: Mar 25, 2014 - MACON - BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
Category: 2. Riverside Development Property
Access: Public
Type: Information
MINUTES OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
March 11, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)

A Commission Work Session was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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 Al Tillman
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commission Rabbi Larry Schlesinger

Dale Walker – County Manager
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager
Sheila Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Charles Coney, Asst. County Manager

Sam Henderson – Executive Asst. to the Mayor
Christy Iuliuici – Finance Director
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Chris Floore – Asst. to County Manager - Public Affairs

Guests Present
Tommy Tedders, Tax Commissioner
Judge Tillman Self, Superior Court Chief Judge

Media Present
Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Randall Savage, 13 WMAZ

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Approval of minutes from January 14, 2014 and February 11, 2014

AGENDA ITEM:

1. Presentation by Tommy Tedders, Macon -- Bibb County Tax Commissioner

Mr. Tedders thanked the Mayor for the invitation to meet with the new Commissioners. He stated that the Tax Commissioner was one of four constitutional offices created by the legislature some 224 years ago. His first priority is to collect funds for the government. His office is answerable to the people and as such he has encouraged his staff to treat all people with the utmost courtesy. His office is responsible for real and personal taxes, ad
valorem taxes, mobile home fees, garbage fees, street light fees, paving assessments, alcohol beverage licenses and hotel and motel taxes.

Mr. Tedders reported that at the close of the Fiscal Year on June 30, 2014 his office had collected the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>141,126,308</td>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000,800</td>
<td>City Garbage Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>County Garbage Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,069,000</td>
<td>Street Light Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,614,000</td>
<td>Business Licenses, Alcohol Licenses, Hotel/Motel Taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155,810,108</td>
<td>Total taxes collected for FY2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He reminded the commission that the reason that the Tax Commissioner collects garbage fees is because his department may issue liens. His office is willing to work with customers to establish a payment plan on tax bills owed for property and garbage fees.

Mr. Tedders stated that he would like to work with the commission to determine if there is a better way in which to bill and collect garbage fees. At the present time, he issues between 55,000 to 60,000 bills every quarter. This is time consuming for his staff. Many counties now are tackling on the garbage bill for the year with the property tax bill. This would be a one time charge yearly which could be paid through the mortgage company eliminating the need to bill quarterly. This would save staff time and the fees to run and mail the bills.

Mr. Tedders spoke on his new office that will be located at the corner of Third and Walnut Street. The office has been designed from the front door back with customer service being the primary focus. There will be 16 tax clerks with two drive through windows open and the possibility of a third window being open during busy times. There will be two kiosks in the lobby where you may choose the reason for your visit and it will direct you to the correct person. He is also investigating placing kiosks in the Government Center, Government Annex Building and the Courthouse for customers to pay their bills. The Tax Commissioner's Office is presently taking Electronic Payments over the counter and on-line transactions. Mr. Tedders continued that he has a staff of 43 people to help the customers. The new office has 16,000 square feet of space so the Farmers' Market location will close once the new office is opened.

Commissioner Bechtel commended Mr. Tedders on a well run office and Commissioner Lucas commended him on his excellent staff.

Mayor Reichert thanked Mr. Tedders for his presentation and stated that he and the Commissioners were looking forward to continuing to work with him and his staff.

2. Presentation by The Honorable Tillman Self, Chief Judge of Superior Court

Judge Self presented to the Commission the Process and Powers of the Superior Court.

Judge Self stated that the courts make up one of three branches of government; legislative, executive and judicial. Each branch has separate and independent powers. A system of checks and balances allows one branch to limit another.

Superior Courts have unlimited jurisdiction over civil and criminal legal cases. In Georgia, Superior Courts are responsible for handling cases involving serious crimes (felonies), Civil
disputes, real estate matters, family and domestic relations issues. Superior Courts also have the power to change the venue in civil and criminal cases, can exercise jurisdiction for state court and juvenile court in the absence of such courts in a county and have appellate jurisdiction as provided by law. Superior Courts are organized into 10 judicial districts comprising 49 judicial circuits. The 49 judicial circuits contain at least one and sometimes multiple counties. Each county has its own Superior Court, though a judge may serve more than one county. Superior Courts hold court at least twice a year in each county. A chief judge handles the administrative tasks for each circuit.

Judge Self continued that Superior Court judges have authority to perform any and all other acts required at chambers, to hear and determine all motions to dismiss petitions for equitable relief, and all motions to revoke or change orders appointing receivers, to administer oaths and to exercise all other powers necessarily appertaining to their jurisdiction or which may be granted them by law, to handle all adoptions, to hear all cases involving domestic relations, including divorce, child custody and child support, to hear all cases involving title to land and appeals as allowed by law.

Judge Self reported that the Macon Judicial Circuit is composed of 3 counties (Bibb, Crawford and Peach) and is authorized for 5 judges by statute (Self, Ennis, Simms, Raymond and another judge to be named). The Chief Judge is the senior judge and is responsible for all administrative functions of the Court. There are five accountability courts (Mental Health, Family Violence, Drug Court, Problem Solving Court and Veteran's Court). The requested budget is $1.3M. The five judges handle thousands of cases annually.

Mayor Reichert thanked Judge Self for his presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission