

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
February 17, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Commission Chamber)**

The Regular Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on February 17, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber 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
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present:

Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Sr. Asst. County Attorney
Opie Bowen – Asst. County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Asst. County Attorney
Chris Floore – Asst. to County Manager
Public Affairs

Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr – Infrastructure
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. – Operations
Jean S. Howard – Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs
Trae McCombs – Public Affairs

Guests in Attendance

Brittney Childs – Industrial Authority
Mrs. Sarah Hunt
Former Mayor C. Jack Ellis

News Media Present

Phillip Ramati – The Telegraph
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ
Malcolm Johnson – WGXA FOX 24
Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA

CALLED TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

The prayer was rendered by Pastor Keith McIntosh of Swift Creek Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GCAPS students Staci Fluellen of Southwest High School and Christopher Thompson of Central High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Pre-Commission and Regular Commission meetings held on February 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, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

INVITED GUESTS

Pastor Keith McIntosh of Swift Creek Baptist Church was invited to render the prayer for tonight's meeting.

Dr. Kimathi Blackwood spoke on the need for the State of Georgia to re-evaluate the non-acceptance of the Medicaid Expansion Program and its impact on the citizenry in need of the assistance the program would provide and the financial impact of not accepting the program to the State.

Commissioner Al Tillman presented a Proclamation to Jordan Rice and Evelyn Billups in recognition of "Spin Day" (Serving People In Need). The organization was founded in April, 2014 by Macon resident Keisha Brown as a means to empower and inspire members of the community to help and uplift families, seniors, and children in community.

Mayor Reichert presented a Proclamation in recognition of "Westside High School DECA Week" to members of the Westside High School Chapter of DECA, an association of marketing students. The students presented a power-point presentation that highlighted the organization's goals and accomplishments.

Mayor Reichert presented Certificates of Recognition to participants who had roles and/or contributed in the making of the Academy Award nominated movie "Selma."

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Sarah Hunt spoke on "Banning the Box" and its importance to those seeking employment. She spoke on behalf of the National Action Black Network.

Ms. Shannon Reaze spoke on the importance of Banning the Box to benefit those who have been incarcerated and are seeking an opportunity to be gainfully employed.

Mr. Kelvin Chapman also addressed the importance of approving the Banning the Box.

Ms. Latonya Barnes spoke on the need to approve Banning the Box to assist those seeking employment.

Mr. Leroy Thomas stated he felt the Seniors of the community were not given an opportunity in the selection of the new Senior Center at the Bloomfield Recreation Center. He further stated the center should be more centrally located in downtown Macon.

Mr. Robert Curry spoke on the location of the new Senior Center to be located at the Bloomfield Recreation Center and expressed his desire that it be placed at a central downtown area.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

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

- The Committee approved a Resolution to support “Banning the Box” on Macon-Bibb County employment applications by requiring the removal of inquiries about criminal history, charges and convictions from the initial job applications submitted by County applicants
- Approved a Professional Services Agreement with Triple Point Engineering, Inc. for \$12,000for engineering and architectural services at East Macon Recreational Park
- Approved a Professional Services Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Sizemore Group, LLC for \$18,900 for engineering and architectural at the Bloomfield Senior Center
- Approved a Professional Services Agreement with BTBB, Inc. for \$81,500 for engineering and architectural services at the Donnan Road Fire Station in Macon-Bibb County to be paid from 2013 Urban Development Authority Bond Funds
- The Triple Triangle Master Plan for paving the basketball court in Daisy Park Grant in the amount of \$14,835.39 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Macon-Bibb County Parks and Recreation Department
- Approved the Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Wal-Mart Grant in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to the Sheriff's Office
- Commissioner Bechtel stated he was re-elected as the Operations and Finance Committee Chairman and Commissioner Lucas was re-elected as Vice-Chairman

Economic and Community Development Committee

Committee Chairman Larry Schlesinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 and recommended approval of the following:

- Approved the Resolution re-appointing Bert Bivins, III, Chuck O'Neal, Lonnie Miley, and Matt Rogers to the Macon-Bibb County Council for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.
- Commissioner Schlesinger stated he was re-elected as Chairman of the Economic and Community Development Committee and Commissioner Lucas was elected as Vice Chairman

Public Safety Committee

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

- Approved the Resolution to work with the Local Legislative Delegation to address public concerns regarding Senate Bill 440 (also known as the "Seven Deadly Sins Act") and Senate Bill 441 (also known as "the Two Strikes Act")
- Approved an Ordinance to revise Chapter 5, Section 5-26 of the Code to reflect the Probate Court is the proper Court on Appeal
- Commissioner Shepherd stated he was re-elected Chairman and Commissioner Watkins was re-elected Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee

Facilities and Engineering Committee

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

- Approved the Resolution authorizing the closure of a portion of Third Street Lane to vehicular traffic only near the W. A. Bootle Federal Courthouse for safety purposes and was amended to add the County shall erect the appropriate barriers and shall maintain such barriers

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. A New Alcoholic Beverage License for Sunoco Food Mart located at 1681 Rocky Creek Road, Macon, GA 31206
- B. A new Alcoholic Beverage License for the Dream Bar and Lounge located at 840 MLK, Jr. Blvd., Macon, GA 31201

ACTION:

- *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.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution appointing Jean S. Howard as the Clerk of Commission for Macon-Bibb County

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission appointing Jean S. Howard as the Clerk of Commission for Macon-Bibb County, Georgia; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- ***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.***

- B. A Resolution to support “Banning the Box” on Macon-Bibb County employment applications by requiring the removal of inquiries about criminal history, charges, and convictions from the initial job applications submitted by County applicants

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to support “Banning the Box” on Macon-Bibb County employment applications by requiring the removal of inquiries about criminal history, charges, and convictions from the initial job applications submitted by County applicants; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- ***Approval by Commissioners Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Scotty Shepherd, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.***
- ***Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Mallory Jones, III, and Bert Bivins voted NO.***

- C. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Triple Point Engineering, Inc. for twelve thousand dollars and NO/100 (\$12,000.00) for engineering and architectural services at East Macon Recreational Park in Macon, Bibb County

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Triple Point Engineering, Inc. for twelve thousand dollars and NO/100 (\$12,000.00) for engineering and architectural services at East Macon Recreational Park in Macon, Bibb County; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- ***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.

- D. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Sizemore Group, LLC for eighteen thousand nine hundred dollars and NO/100 (\$18,900.00) for engineering and architectural services at the Bloomfield Senior Center (SPLOST)

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Sizemore Group, LLC for eighteen thousand nine hundred dollars and NO/100 (\$18,900.00) for engineering and architectural services at the Bloomfield Senior Center in Macon-Bibb County; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- ***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.***

- E. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement with BBTB, Inc for eighty one thousand five hundred dollars and NO/100 for engineering and architectural services at the Donnan Road Fire Station to be paid from 2013 Urban Development Authority Bond Funds

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement with BBTB, Inc for eighty one thousand five hundred dollars and NO/100 for engineering and architectural services at the Donnan Road Fire Station to be paid from 2013 Urban Development Authority Bond Funds; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- ***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.***

- F. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Triple Triangle Master Plan Paving of the Basketball Court in Daisy Park Grant in the amount of \$14,835.39 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Macon-Bibb County Parks and Recreation Department

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the Triple Triangle Master Plan Paving of the Basketball Court in Daisy Park Grant in the amount of \$14,835.39 awarded from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to the Macon-Bibb County Parks and Recreation Department; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- *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.*

G. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Wal-Mart Grant in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to the Sheriff's Office

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the acceptance of the Wal-Mart Grant in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to the Sheriff's Office; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- *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.*

H. A Resolution reappointing Bert Bivins, III, Chuck O'Neal, Lonnie Miley, and Matt Rogers to the Macon-Bibb County Council for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County reappointing Bert Bivins, III, Chuck O'Neal, Lonnie Miley, and Matt Rogers to the Macon-Bibb County Council for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission***

ACTION:

- *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.*

I. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to work with the Local Legislative Delegation to address public concerns regarding Senate Bill 440 (also known as "The Seven Deadly Sins Act") and Senate Bill 441 (Also known as ("The Two Strikes Act");

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to work with the Local Legislative Delegation to address public concerns regarding Senate Bill 440 (also known as "The Seven Deadly Sins Act") and Senate Bill 441 (Also known as ("The Two Strikes Act"); and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- *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.*

J. An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission, to revise Chapter 5, Sec. 5-26 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County to reflect the Probate Court is

the proper Court of Appeal; to provide and adoption and effective date

- ***Clerk read by caption: A Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to revise Chapter 5, Sec. 5-26 of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County to reflect the Probate Court is the proper Court of Appeal; to provide and adoption and effective date; and for other purposes.***

ACTION:

- ***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.***
- K. A Resolution authorizing the closure of a portion of Third Street Lane to vehicular traffic only near the W. A. Bootle Federal Courthouse for safety purposes
- ***Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission authorizing the closure of a portion of Third Street Lane to vehicular traffic only near the W. A. Bootle Federal Courthouse for safety purposes; and for other purposes.***

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution recognizing the month of March as “Women’s History Month”

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 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.

Jean S. Howard
Clerk of Commission