COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

June 14, 2016

The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Mayor Robert Reichert
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Bert Bivins
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Al Tillman
Commissioner Virgil Watkins

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

NEWS MEDIA
Stanley Dunlap, The Telegraph
Dave Johnson, Fox 24, WGXA

OTHERS PRESENT:
Dale Walker, County Manager
Charles Coney, Assistant County Manager
Judd Drake, County Attorney
Janice Ross, Clerk of the Commission
Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager
Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager
Dave Fortson, Director of Engineering

VISITORS
Dave Wills, Association of County Commission of GA
Jeff Christie, Association of County Commission of GA.
Tim Thornton, Thornton Realty
Rufus Holmes, Bibb County Retiree Association
Shannon Harvey Gordon, River Edge Behavioral
Sue Chipman, River Edge Behavioral
Pam Helton, Georgia Municipal Association
Cliffard Whidby, Industrial Authority

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

1. Approval of Minutes

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting were approved.

2. 2018 SPLOST

Discussion

Jeff Christie and Dave Wills, ACCG, opened the discussion by introducing the goals and guiding principles for developing the bucket list for the 2018 SPLOST projects.

The goals were to determine total amount of money to raise during the 2018 SPLOST, determine the amount of GEO debt bonds to issue and determine the cost associated with each bucket list. The guiding principles included; will the project benefit entire community, will the project be a direct or indirect use by the community, will the project create human dividend, will the project create finance dividend, will the project reduce pressure from the general fund; and will the project add operations or maintenance costs.

It was the consensus of the Commission to issue $48,000,000 of GEO Debt Bonds which would be 20% of the $240,000,000 raised for the SPLOST. The new Courthouse will cost approximately $30,000,000. Mayor Reichert stated that he understood that First Presbyterian Church was interested in entering discussion regarding constructing a parking deck on the vacant lot across from the Church. Once the new Courthouse is constructed, the parking lot will be gone so new parking must be obtained.

The Commission came to the consensus to spend the following amounts for each project bucket list:

Landfill	*$22 M*
Courthouse	*$40 M*
Blight Remediation	*$10 M*
Storm Water	*$20 M*
Debt Retirement	*$38 M*
Recreation / Cultural / Public Facilities	*$70 M*
Economic Development	*$25 M*
Roads / Bridges	*$35 M*
Public Safety	*$20 M*
Total	*$280 M*

It was the consensus of the Commission to increase the goal for collections to $280,000,000. Mr. Wills and Mr. Christie will return to the June 28, 2016 meeting of the Committee of the Whole to work with the Commission to establish projects for each bucket.

3. GMA Activities

Discussion

Pam Helton, Director, Consulting Services, Georgia Municipal Association, reviewed many of the member services available to Macon-Bibb County. They include Human Resources Services which will launch a new service to allow cities to stay in compliance with numerous human resources laws and regulation. HR Express has an annual subscription fee to participate of $500 to $2,000 depending on City's population size. GMA continues to build webinar content focusing on innovative programs and practices for peer-to-peer learning, Revenue Forecasting Workshops, City Management Resource Guide, Municipal Golf Course Roundtable, Municipal Revenue Specialist Certification, Internal Control Audits, Municipal Court Operational Review, and Municipal Workforce Development. She stated that other potential initiatives are under consideration such as a group purchasing program for body cameras and video storage, a customer service evaluation program, an educational effort on sales tax exemptions available to cities, a publication focused on model standards of decorum and conduct for elected officials, a service to help local governments increase citizen engagement through communication utilizing various digital platforms, short training programs at city council meetings and a service to provide discounted pricing for cities desiring to use iBeacon technology based on an innovative program implemented by the city of Columbus and a private app developer.

4. Pension Board for the Macon-Bibb County Pension Plan

Discussion

The item was moved to the June 28, 2016 Committee of the Whole for discussion. Commission Bechtel stated that the plan had always been administered by the Commission and he suggested continuing the practice.

5. River Edge Behavioral Health

Discussion

Shannon Gordon, Executive Director, River Edge Behavioral Health, discussed the need for a new River Edge Behavioral Health Center which is currently located on Fulton Mill Road. She stated that the building is one of five facilities in the State opened for individuals who suffer from addictive diseases or children who have mental issues. She encouraged the Commission to include a new building, which would cost approximately $3 million, in the upcoming SPLOST.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

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Janice S. Ross, CCC
Clerk of the Commission