MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
June 3, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on June 3, 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 (arrived late)
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore (arrived late)
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present

Dale Walker – County Manager
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Senior Assistant County Attorney
Opie Bowen – Assistant County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Assistant County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Assistant County Manager (Infrastructure)
Charles Coney – Assistant County Manager (Operations)
Chris Floore – Assistant to County Manager - Public Affairs
Jean S. Howard – Assistant Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Doug Faour – Airport Manager

Visitors Present

Adah Roberts
Eric Harris – Benoit Group

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Malcolm Johnson – 24 WGXA

Sean Franklin – 41WMGT
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ

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

The Mayor stated the meeting was being convened as a Committee of the Whole in order to take action on two amendments that are needed to make changes to some of the letters of support and/or letters of financial support as required to finalize various projects that are seeking Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Mayor Reichert also asked for a motion to add an Executive Session to the PreCommission Meeting's agenda to discuss a real estate matter - acquisition of or sale of property to or by the Consolidated Government.

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Tillman, and carried unanimously, the addition of an Executive Session to the agenda was approved.

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

The Mayor reviewed the agenda items for tonight's Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 P.M. and stated all items under New Business would be referred to a Committee.

AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER

A. Pastor Keith Watson – New City Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Pre-Commission Meeting on May 20, 2014
B. Regular Commission Meeting on May 20, 2014

INVITED GUESTS

Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Students and Career Technical Instructors (CTI)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Reichert asked Committee Chairs to be prepared to give their Committee Reports tonight.

A. Operations and Finance Committee

B. Economic and Community Development Committee

C. Public Safety Committee

D. Facilities and Engineering Committee

CONSENT AGENDA

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Ratification of the following retirements: Ms. Florine Meadows (County Extension Service) and Mr. Jerry Stokes (Public Works)

B. Resolution authorizing an agreement with Cana Communications regarding property at 455 Walnut Street

C. Resolution authorizing an agreement with a Telecommunications provider for the Ft. Hawkins Visitor's Center building

D. Ordinance to appropriate funds from Commissary Fund to provide equipment for the Jail

E. Ordinance to appropriate funds from Commissary Fund to replace graphics on Sheriff's patrol cars

F. Ordinance to appropriate funds from Fund Balance to Internal Audit operating budget

G. Ratification of request for transfer of funds by the Sheriff's Office and Clerk of Superior Court

H. Resolution to provide funds of In-Kind Services related to the A. L. Miller High School project

I. Resolution to provide funds related to the former Henry A. Hunt Elementary School property

J. Resolution to provide funds related to the Macon Gardens Apartment project

Commissioner Watkins stated the Benoit Group was requesting a change in the term of the $250,000 loan request from 20 years to 45 years to match their DCA request. Commissioner Watkins stated they had originally requested the 45 year term but that he changed the request to match the other requests submitted for Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

ACTION:

- ***Commissioner Watkins made a motion to extend the term of the loan to 45 years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tillman.***

- ***Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, and Scotty Shepherd voted No.***

- ***The motion failed.***

K. Resolution to provide funds to Roundstone Development for the development of Mallard Lakes

L. Resolution to support Potemkin Development related to the development of Sterling Heights Senior Apartments

M. Resolution to provide funds to Potemkin Development related to the development of Sterling Heights Senior Apartments (amended to reduce the loan amount from $450,000 to $368,000.)

ACTION:

- ***On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the amendment to reduce the loan amount from $450,000 to $368,000 was approved as amended.***

- ***Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.***

N. Resolution to support the Economic and Community Development Department entering into an agreement and providing funds to Georgia Behavioral Health Services

O. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Land Bank Authority for properties for future redevelopment purposes

P. Resolution authorizing a contract amendment and contract for construction project related to the Runway 5 Safety Area grading and replacing Taxiway B lighting at the Middle Georgia Regional Airport

Q. Resolution to authorize a Consulting Agreement with Sixel Consulting Group related to a Leakage Study for the Middle Georgia Regional Airport

R. Resolution authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Jones County for Solid Waste Management Services

Discussion:

Commissioner Tillman as well as several other Commissioners voiced strong concern about Georgia's new gun law that goes into effect July 1st, the public safety and the negative economic impact the law would have locally and statewide. Commissioner Tillman further stated it was important for the Commission to let our Local Delegation know of its opposition to the law. Commissioner Jones stated preventive measures needed to be put in place until this law is further reviewed and possible changes made. Commissioner Bivins stated this law would also have a negative effect on conventions and local festivals such as Cherry Blossom. Judd Drake, County Attorney, will draft a letter for the Commissioners to review to be sent to the state legislators expressing opposition and concern for the new gun law.

Executive Session

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate acquisition.

On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the Commissioners went into Executive Session at 5:30 P.M.

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

On motion of Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Mallory Jones and carried unanimously, the meeting was re-opened.

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.

There being no further business, and on motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Elaine Lucas and carried unanimously, the Pre-Commission meeting was adjourned.

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.

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Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission