

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

May 26, 2020

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

Pursuant to instructions from the President of the United States, the Honorable Donald J. Trump, the Governor of Georgia, the Honorable Brian Kemp and the Mayor of Macon-Bibb County, the Honorable Robert A. B. Reichert, the Macon-Bibb County Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020 will be available to the Macon-Bibb County Commissioners by video call only for the 9:00 a.m. committee of the whole meeting.

The commission chambers will be closed to the public and press, as we follow the recommendation from the White House to limit public gatherings in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the public and press may only access the meeting simultaneously online at www.maconbibb.us or www.facebook.com/maconbibbcounty.

The following individuals were on the video-conference.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Valerie Wynn
Commissioner Joe Allen
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Bert Bivins
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Keith Moffett, County Manager
Michael McNeill, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Michelle Harris, Assistant County Attorney
Joel Callins, Assistant County Attorney
Chris Floore, Public Affairs
Janice Ross, Clerk of Commission
Rachel Gambill, Public Affairs
Sara Henton, Information Technology

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Elaine Lucas

VISITORS PRESENT:

Mike Austin, President, Macon Housing Authority

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1. Approval of minutes from the April 14, 2020 meeting

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Proposed Reduction In Force

- A. An Ordinance to provide for a Partial Reduction in Force by Furlough for certain Macon-Bibb County Employees (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)
- B. An Ordinance to provide for a Partial Reduction in Force for Employees of the Macon-Bibb County Recreation Department (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

Discussion

Mr. McNeill reviewed the Ordinances. The first item is in regards to general employees, those employees that are mentioned in the ordinance, to allow administration to furlough employees one day per pay period. He listed the departments that would be exempt. It also allows administration to terminate if the funds come in higher than expected. He continued that employees may not take annual leave or other leave to cover the eight hours.

The second Ordinance is in regards to the Recreation Department which allows for the same parameters except that it will begin on the date of acceptance by the Commission and will expire on August 31, 2020. The employees will work one day per week, two days per pay period. Mayor Reichert stated that part of these savings would be in the current fiscal year with the remaining in the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Bivins stated that he did not doing any of the things just mentioned but he did understand that this would lead the Commission to a balance budget so he understood the need for it.

Commissioner Wynn asked about the pension effect. Mayor Reichert stated that it would not affect their pension in that when calculating you take in effect the three highest year. He did not think it would affect anyone's pension.

Commissioner Watkins stated his concern was that Macon-Bibb County would be providing no programs for the youth during the summer. He does not go along with no programs for the youth. Mayor Reichert stated that 80% of the budget is personnel.

Commissioner Watkins moved to table both Ordinances, Commissioner Allen seconded.

The Clerk called a roll call vote

Commissioner Tillman voted yes
Commissioner Bivins voted yes
Commissioner Allen voted yes
Commissioner Schlesinger voted yes
Commissioner Jones voted no
Commissioner Shepherd voted yes
Commissioner Watkins voted yes
Commissioner Wynn voted yes.

The two ordinances were tabled.

3. Repeal O-19-0066

- A. An Ordinance to repeal Section 1 of Ordinance No. O-19-0066 amending the Macon-Bibb County Government Policies and Procedures Manual so as to adopt a new pay scale (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Jones, seconded by Commissioner Wynn to approve the Ordinance.

The Ordinance was approved by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Schlesinger, Shepherd, Bivins, Wynn and Jones casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Allen and Watkins casting the dissenting votes.

4. Central City Apartment

- A. A Resolution to authorize a loan in the amount of \$375,000 in revolving loan funds to assist in-fill housing II, Inc in developing the proposed low-income, multi-family Housing Tax Credit Development on Seventh Street, Between Mulberry Street and Walnut Street in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to be known as "Central City Apartments" to be secured by a deed to secure debt conveying said property (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Bivins, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the Resolution to authorize the loan amount of \$375,000 for the Macon Housing Authority to secure the Central City Apartments.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Commission