

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
May 20, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on May 20, 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 Elaine Lucas

Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Commission Members Present

Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd

Staff Present

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
Julie Moore – Assistant to County Manager –Strategic Planning & Budget
Jean S. Howard – Assistant Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Doug Faour – Airport Manager

Visitors Present

Dr. Lindsey Holliday
Virgil Adams, Attorney

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph

Announcements:

County Attorney Judd Drake introduced Reggie McClendon as the new Assistant County Attorney for his office. Mr. McClendon is a graduate of Morehouse College and Georgia Tech and is a former attorney for the City of Atlanta.

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 to take action on the following items:

- A. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Georgia Power Company to provide electric service for the Thomas Jackson Juvenile Justice Center located at 560 Oglethorpe Street, Macon, Georgia 31201, as an addition to the electric grid currently supplying the Bibb County Jail, in substantially the same form as attached Exhibit "A"; and for other purposes**

Julie Moore stated this contract was recently received from Georgia Power and was reviewed by County Attorney Judd Drake. Attorney Drake determined the contract would be in excess of \$50,000, thereby requiring approval by the Commission. Attorney Drake stated this was due to the Center being placed on the grid supplying the Bibb County Jail, at an approximated cost of \$47,308 annually and the projected cost of electric service for the jail approximated at \$303,743.

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner DeFore, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

Mayor Reichert stated this will be item R on tonight's agenda.

- B. Resolution to support the A. L. Miller Village, LP to redevelop the A. L. Miller High School**

Mayor Reichert stated four development projects had been submitted to the Commission to get tax credits from DCA. He further stated there is no financial commitment, but merely a resolution of support and endorsement for these projects equally.

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Tillman, and carried, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Approval by Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman. Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, voted No.

Mayor Reichert stated this will be item T on tonight's agenda.

- C. Resolution to support Roundstone Development, LLC to develop Mallard Lakes**

Mayor Reichert reiterated there is no financial commitment, but a resolution of support and endorsement.

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Approval by Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

Commissioner Bert Bivins, III voted No.

Mayor Reichert stated this will be item S on tonight's agenda.

D. Resolution to authorize and approve a consulting Agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Sixel Consulting Group, Inc. for completion of a True Market/Leakage Study for Middle Georgia Regional Airport

Discussion: Doug Faour stated the Market/Leakage Study agreement with Sixel Consulting, Inc. for \$10,000 at Middle Georgia Regional Airport will provide data that shows there is a market here that can easily meet the DOT Essential Service requirements. Also the study will be used as a supplement to our appeal to remain in the program. He further stated the study would be valid for three years. In addition, the study will show us where passengers travel to which will be extremely helpful when recruiting airlines. The study results will also show the number of passengers that could use the airport but choose other airports.

Commissioner Lucas inquired whether the study could be done by the RC and whether they had been contacted. She stated the RC may already have this data, and that they were capable of conducting the study. She also inquired about the funding for the study. Julie Moore stated the funding would be from the land sale funds derived from the Department of Transportation from the widening of Avondale Mill Road of which there is approximately \$237,000 available in the fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeFore and seconded by Commissioner Bechtel but the Resolution failed by a vote of four to three (4-3).

Commissioners Bechtel, DeFore, and Jones voted Yes

Commissioners Bivins, Lucas, Watkins, and Tillman voted No

E. Resolution to modify an Urban Redevelopment Plan for one or more slum, blighted, or underdeveloped areas with Macon-Bibb County as amended

Judd Drake, County Attorney, gave an overview of the amended 2011 Urban Development Plan to include the areas encompassing the projects proposed by the Benoit Group, Macon Housing Authority, Hunt School, and Miller High School properties. He also stated references to the City of Macon and County Wards have been replaced by references to Macon-Bibb County and Commission districts, demographic information has been updated to reflect Macon-Bibb County data and additional evidence of slum areas for the additional areas.

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

F. Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Georgia Power Company and an agreement with the Macon Water Authority to transfer utility services for the Fort Hawkins Visitor's Center building

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas stated a review of other Macon-Bibb County agencies needed to be done to determine if we were paying their utilities as the approval of this agreement would be setting a precedent. She also asked for the revenue source for the Fort Hawkins Visitors Center. County Attorney Judd Drake stated the City has owned the building since 2008.

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner DeFore, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

G. Resolution authorizing a contract amendment and contract for construction with GDOT for a construction project related to the Runway 5 safety area

This item was removed from the Agenda for additional information and documentation and will be referred to the Facilities and Engineering for further action.

Review Agenda for Tonight's Commission Meeting

Mayor Reichert stated in the essence of time the agenda items would not be reviewed in order to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation with Counsel.

Executive Session

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation with Counsel, Virgil Adams.

On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the Commissioners went into Executive Session at 5:45 P.M.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

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

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

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

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission