

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

May 12, 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 Elaine Lucas
Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman
Commissioner Bert Bivins

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 Scotty Shepherd

VISITORS PRESENT:

David Corbin, Terminus
Matthew Arrington, Terminus

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

ACTION

On motion of Commission Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the minutes of the April 28, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Announcements

The Clerk called the roll:

Commissioner Tillman – present
Commissioner Allen – present
Commissioner Bivins - present
Commissioner Jones - present

Commissioner Lucas – present
Commissioner Schlesinger – present
Commissioner Watkins – present
Commissioner Shepherd – not present
Commissioner Wynn – present

3. Review Of Governor Kemp's Latest Executive Order – Michael McNeill

Mr. McNeill reported on the latest Executive Order from Governor Kemp. The order declares a Statewide Judicial Emergency where he suspended and otherwise granted relief from any deadlines or other time schedules or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes in regards to weapons renewal license. The order states that an application shall be considered to be for a renewal license if the applicant has a weapons carry license or renewal license with 30 or fewer days since the expiration of such weapons carry license or renewal license. Mr. McNeill stated that the renewal licenses must be applied for within 30 days after the expiration of such licenses was suspended for weapons carry licenses and renewal licenses which expire between February 13 and June 12, 2020

4. Financial Update

David Corbin reported on the financial situation due to COVID-19. He advised proceeding with caution for the next 60 days. He continued that it would be best to "do no harm" while waiting for more accurate data before making any decisions. Retail business is low with March partial shutdown and April being mostly shut down. He suggested that retail sales tax could be off by as much as 15 to 30%. Presently unemployment is at 4.8 with not enough money in the State trust to cover these expenses. He continued that property tax valuations are down and that people are holding onto as much cash as they can. Mr. Corbin stated that he does not know how /how much federal dollars may trickle down but not to count on those funds now. Mayor Reichert stated that the sales tax numbers for March were down \$200,000. The State will divvy up \$4 Billion but there has been no word on how those funds will be divvied up. The State has been told to cut their budgets by 14%. Hotel / Motel Tax collections are also down.

Mayor Reichert stated that all of this will be taken into consideration while working on the FY21 budget.

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