

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
May 1, 2018
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon - Bibb County Commission was held on May 1, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. in the Large Conference Room at the Government Center.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Joe Allen
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Al Tillman

Commissioners Bert Bivins, III
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd

Commissioner Absent

Staff Present

Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Sr. County Attorney
Julie Moore – Budget & Strategic Planning
Janice Ross – Clerk of the Commission
David Fortson – Director, Engineering Dept.

Keith Moffett – County Manager
Michael McNeill - Assistant County Attorney
Chris Floore – Public Affairs
Alex Morrison, Urban Development Authority

News Media Present

Stanley Dunlap, The Telegraph
Mary Grace Shaw, WMAZ13

Visitors Present:

Rufus Holmes – Bibb County Retiree Association
Clay Murphey – SPLOST Project Manager
Greg Boike, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Kayleigh Sullivan, Middle Ga. Regional Commission
Violet Poe, Macon Transit Authority
Chuck Howard, Macon Transit Authority
Danny Thompson, CFO, Macon Transit Authority
Jaime Gaudet, Macon Transit Authority
Tom Ellington, Macon Transit Authority
Craig Ross, CEO, Macon Transit Authority
Mike Greenwall, Planning and Zoning Commission
Valerie Wynn, Candidate, District One

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1. Call To Order
 2. Announcements

Mayor Reichert informed the Commission of the April 27, 2018 Engineering Request for Emergency Procurement Authorization. On or about April 18, 2018, a sinkhole appeared in the parking lot of the EconoLodge Inn and Suites located at 4709 Chambers Road. The sinkhole was likely caused by the failure of an underground pipe installed by Bibb County in 1967. Because of the location of the sinkhole, near the entry canopy of the hotel,

Engineering was concerned that the sinkhole may cause the canopy to collapse if it grows too wide, creating a threat to public health, welfare or safety.

3. Review Of Regular Commission Meeting Agenda

Mayor Reichert reviewed the items that will be presented at the 6:00 p.m. Commission meeting.

4. Consent Agenda:

- A. New Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Gumagi, Inc d.b.a. Tzango Cocina located at 336 Second Street, Macon, GA 31201
- B. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Walgreen Co d.b.a. Rite Aid #11842 located at 892 Pierce Avenue, Macon, GA 31204
- C. New Alcoholic Beverage License for J & Y Enterprises d.b.a. Village Market located at 2746 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA 31204
- D. New Alcoholic Beverage License for the Gold Room located at 4740 Pio Nono Avenue, Macon, Ga 31206

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the above licenses were approved and added to tonight's agenda.

5. New Business

- A. An Ordinance approving and authorizing the appropriation of up to \$1,300,000 from the 2017 SPLOST Bond Proceeds and 2018 SPLOST Revenues to make additional funding available for the Jeffersonville Road Project

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the Ordinance approving and authorizing the appropriation of up to \$1,300,000 from the 2017 SPLOST Bond Proceeds and 2018 SPLOST Revenues to make additional funding available for the Jeffersonville Road Project was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- B. Motion to Add Item To Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, the following item was added to the agenda for action:

- A Resolution to approve and adopt amendments to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Redevelopment Plan related to the Tindall Fields Development

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, the Resolution to approve and adopt amendments to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Redevelopment Plan related to the Tindall Fields Development was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- C. COMMITTEE AMENDMENT - A Resolution to approve the Thirteenth Amendment to the 2018 SPLOST Project Timeline and Budget as presented by the SPLOST Project Manager

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the Resolution to approve the Thirteenth Amendment to the 2018 SPLOST Project Timeline and Budget as presented by the SPLOST Project Manager was approved.

- D. An Ordinance approving and authorizing the appropriation of up to \$140,000 from the 2017 SPLOST Bond Proceeds to cover the additional matching funds needed by the Macon Transit Authority for the Grant that MTA received for two electric buses and charging station(s)

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried seven to one with Commissioners Allen, Bivins, Jones, Schlesinger Shepherd, Tillman and Watkins casting the affirmative votes and Commission Lucas casting the dissenting vote, the Ordinance approving and authorizing the appropriation of up to \$140,000 from the 2017 SPLOST Bond Proceeds to cover the additional matching funds needed by the Macon Transit Authority for the Grant that MTA received for two electric buses and charging station(s) was approved.

6. Department of Small Business Affairs

A. Small Business Affairs Update

Dr. Bumpus read the prepared statement below:

I, Dr. James Louis Bumpus, submitted my resignation on April 20, 2018 as the director of the Office of Small Business Affairs because of unfair treatment. Due to budget restraints that is needed to support the Office of Small Business Affairs, along with statements that attempted to discredit my character and integrity as an employee and community leader are the reasons why I submitted my resignation. The final determining factor that lead me to resign happened on April 19, 2018, when I experienced a hostile work environment during a budget committee meeting which involved negative comments made by Julie Morre. Witnesses to the meeting were several key Macon-Bibb County employees. My last day will be May 25, 2018. This date would allow for me to complete two community projects. My resignation is due to me solely wanting to pursue other interests to continue to engage my work as a community leader.

The work of the Office of Small Business Affairs is a collaborative one. Collaborative partners with which the office works includes the Macon-Bibb County Departments, Industrial Authority, Bibb School District, Macon Water Authority, Macon Housing Authority , local universities and private sector companies wanting to make known business opportunities to local small businesses that provide goods, services products and supplies that the Collaborative partners could benefit from.

The Office of Small Business Affairs works with local small business owners who seek these business opportunities in Macon-Bibb County through outreach events,

educational programs, technical assistance and networking events provided by the Office of Small Business Affairs. The director of the Office of Small Business Affairs Dr. James Louis Bumpus, does not manage a procurement process – i.e. proposal development, proposal evaluation, contract award, invoicing and / or accounting.

In the months of August and September of 2015, the Office of Small Business Affairs was asked by the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority to make available information about an opportunity to submit a proposal on a Request for Proposal for demolition and rehab services at Allied Industrial Park. Our office, OSBA was solely responsible for reviewing the company's minority and business ownership status of the three companies that expressed interest in knowing more about the projects. Their names were then presented to the Industrial Authority board and the former Chairman, Cliffard Whitby. Any further action regarding these companies would have been taken by the Industrial Authority Board and not the Director of the Office of Small Business Affairs, Dr. James Louis Bumpus.

As I pursue other interest, my desire still remains, "to See Macon Win".

After reading the prepared statement, Dr. Bumpus asked for questions. Commissioner Jones inquired if Dr. Bumpus was aware that the two companies he submitted to the Industrial Authority were owned by members of Cliffard Whitby's family. Dr. Bumpus responded that Macon was a small town and that he was aware that two of the companies were owned by members of Mr. Whitby's family. He continued that it was the Industrial Authority whose responsibility it was to choose the companies.

7. Executive Session

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the Committee went into Executive Session for Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against Macon-Bibb County or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the Pre-Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CCC
Clerk of the Commission