

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
April 21, 2020
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon - Bibb County Commission was held April 21, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. via Video Conference in the Commission Chambers at the Government Center.

Commission Members On Video-conference:

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Valerie Wynn
Commissioner Bert Bivins, III (via phone)

Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman
Commissioner Joe Allen
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd

Guests Present

Judge Jeff Hanson, Chief State Court Judge
Gary Wheat, Exec. Director, Visit Macon

Staff Present

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Michael McNeill – Assistant County Attorney
Keith Moffett – County Manager
Janice Ross – Clerk of the Commission
Chris Floore - Public Affairs
Michelle Harris – Assistant County Attorney
Joel Callins, Assistant County Attorney
Brett Lavender, Director, Information Technology

1. Call to Order

Mayor Reichert called the meeting to order. He read the following statement regarding the Pre-Commission and Commission meeting:

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 Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020 will be available to the Macon-Bibb County Commissioners by conference call only for the 5:00 p.m. pre-commission meeting and 6:00 p.m. commission 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 for the next 15 days, 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.

2. Announcements

The meeting tonight was being held as a Committee of the Whole.

Mayor Reichert stated that that he would like to add to the agenda the City of Ethics Resolution which is expiring this year.

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

- A Resolution recertifying the adoption of the Five Ethics Principles of the Georgia Municipal Association's Certified City of Ethics Program; to certify Macon-Bibb County as a City of Ethics; and for other purposes.

Gary Wheat, Executive Director of Visit Macon, stated that he had a good group of employees and partners. In March the hotels had a 36% occupancy; March 2019 was the busiest month for the year. Visit Macon is using an awareness campaign to work at bringing more occupancy to Macon-Bibb County. Mayor Reichert stated that one of the problems for Macon-Bibb County was that last year several agencies were placed on Motel/Hotel tax. Mr. Wheat stated that he has been in discussion with those agencies. Mr. Wheat stated that there were medical personnel, retirement community members headed back north, and the trucking industry were helping with the occupancy rate at 36%. Presently only one hotel in Macon has gone dark during this time period.

Mayor Reichert gave an update on COVID-19. The Governor had a press conference on April 20 and announced the re-opening of certain businesses that had previously had been closed. Mayor Reichert stated that the Governor's order did not add any flexibility to either add to or take away from his order. The State of Emergency will remain in effect until May 13, 2020. The Order did encourage that meeting continue to be held with less than 10 people and continue to meet via video/tele conferencing.

Commissioner Lucas stated that she would like to prepare a resolution asking the Governor to delaying opening some businesses in Macon-Bibb County. Commissioner Wynn stated that she had been talking with citizens and that they are going to do the right thing and give people the right to make their own decision.

Commissioner Watkins discussed Hazard Pay for employees. Mayor Reichert stated that he needed an opportunity to get more information and would be glad to add it to the agenda at the committee meetings scheduled for April 28, 2020.

3. Review of the Agenda for tonight's Commission meeting

Mayor Reichert reviewed he old business items on the Regular agenda.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. New alcohol beverage license for CWJ G Food Mart Inc, dba G Food Mart at 2650 Riverside Dr, Macon, GA 31204
- B. New alcohol business license for MGM Mart, LLC dba MGM Mart at 4437 Columbus Rd., Ste M-1000, Macon, GA 31206
- C. New alcohol business license for PESA, Inc. dba Discount Zone at 2031 Shurling Dr. Macon, GA 31211
- D. New alcohol business license for PSM 100 Years, Inc. dba LOLO#1 at 2490 Pio Nono Avenue Macon, GA 31206

- E. New alcohol business license for Riverside Shell, LLC dba Shell Food Mart at 2010 Riverside Dr, Macon, GA 31204
- F. New alcohol business license for SVP Investment, LLC dba Shell at 627 Shurling Dr. Macon, GA 31211
- G. New alcohol business license for Allure's Wet Bar, LLC at 3670 Eisenhower Pkwy, Macon, GA 31206
- H. New alcohol business license for Ezee Zayan Enterprises, LLC located at 1257 Riverside Dr. Macon, GA 31201
- I. New alcohol business license for Kamakshi, LLC dba Store at 4290 Dellwood Drive, Ste B, Macon, GA 31204

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

5. New Business

- A. A Resolution recertifying the adoption of the Five Ethics Principles of the Georgia Municipal Association's Certified City of Ethics Program, to certify Macon-Bibb County as a City of Ethics (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert).

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Resolution recertifying the adoption of the Five Ethics Principles of the Georgia Municipal Association's Certified City of Ethics Program, to certify Macon-Bibb County as a City of Ethics was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Pre-Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Commission