

MINUTES
MACON-BIBB COUNTY
CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Building and Fire Safety Office, Historic Terminal Station

MEMBERS PRESENT

Warren Selby, Post 1
Scott Pipkins, Post 2
Harold Spier, Post 4
Stephen Skalko, Post 5
Bob Brown, Alternate Post 1
Kesia Stafford, Alternate Post 2

OTHERS PRESENT

Liz Fabian, Mercer University
Don Wilkins, Safebuilt
Ryan Griffin, New Atlantic Realty Group
Michael McNeill, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Keith Moffett, Macon-Bibb County Manager
Carol Payton, Macon-Bibb County

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Warren Selby called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and indicated that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Selby briefly discussed the process of the Construction Board of Appeals. It was noted that the board was not formed to “handle complaints” but to assist in making the process smoother. He also stated that he asked Ryan Griffin, local builder and broker, to attend to bring before the Board some of his questions and concerns regarding new codes/regulations as compared to the past. Dr. Moffett said he, as County Manager, was present so that the administration can better understand the processes and how to make it more efficient.

Ryan Griffin was called to speak on recent personal experiences in dealing with new codes and regulations. Mr. Griffin said it was his personal opinion that the pendulum has swung so far the other way that there needs to be some type of balance. Codes are being enforced that no one knew even existed. It was noted by a board member that when there is a question concerning the intent or the manner in which a code section should be applied, or technical issues, that is when it should be brought before the Appeals Board. It is not the board’s duty to handle any issues regarding the administrative process conducted by the department. Mr. Wilkins of Safebuilt explained the administrative processes by his department.

Further discussion continued which lead to the hearing/appeal process and how formal does the draft of the process for the actual hearing have to be. There are steps already in place for the petition application to the Board of Appeals but does how the department actually functions during this process need to be addressed?

Due to time constraint, Steve Skalko made a motion to table the appeal process. The motion was seconded by Bob Brown and unanimously carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Don Wilkins commented that he has been approached by the Georgia American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Middle Georgia Chapter of AIA to lobby an item for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to make the existing international building code a forceable, mandatory code across the state.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.