

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

April 14 2015

The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Robert Reichert
Commissioner Bert Bivins
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dale Walker, County Manager
Charles Coney, Asst. County Manager
Steve Layson, Asst. County Manager
Judd Drake, County Attorney
Opie Bowen, Assistant County Attorney
Reggie McClendon, Assistant County Attorney
Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager
Jean Howard, Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross, Assistant Clerk of the Commission
Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager
Chief Marvin Riggins, Fire Department
Assistant Chief Shane Edwards, Fire Department
Ben Hubbard, Director of Human Resources
Sheriff David Davis
Chief Russell Nelson, Sheriff's Office
Deborah Martin, Sheriff's Office
Jeanette Watson, Board of Elections
Nancy Malcort, District Attorney's Office
Gay Burnette, Juvenile Justice
Karen McDuffie, Budget and Strategic Planning
Kendall Countryman, Human Resources
Harry Colbert, Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Absent

VISITORS/GUESTS:

NEWS MEDIA:

Jim Gaines, The Telegraph
Anita Oh, WMAZ-TB
Skyler Henry, 41 WMTB

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Reichert.

1. Approval of Minutes

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried with Commissioners Bivins, Bechtel, Jones, Tillman, Lucas, Schlesinger and Watkins voting in the affirmative, the minutes of the March 24, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Retirement Incentive Programs

Discussion

Julie Moore reviewed the options for the Retirement Incentive Programs. Interested employees have between May 1 and July 31st to sign up with retirements taking place between July 1, 2015 and September 30, 2015. If the desired 200 employees take the

option, then the County will save approximately \$12 Million in salaries and benefits. The estimated costs would be \$2 Million. She reminded everyone that these offers are only good during the scheduled time period and once July 31, 2015 passes, the window will close and all retirement benefits will return to what they were before, except for the HRA of \$388 that the County employees receive and that would no longer be available.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried with Commissioners Bivins, DeFore, Jones, Lucas, Shepherd, Schlesinger and Watkins voting in the affirmative, the resolution acting as a Committee of the Whole authorizing the preparation and submission for action of such separate ordinances and resolutions as necessary to adopt early retirement incentive programs for the eligible participants of the Macon-Bibb county pension plan, the division a pension plan, and the fire and police employees' pension beginning at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting

3. Nominations to the Bibb County Board of Elections

Discussion

Reggie McClendon, County Attorney, stated that the process for the Board of Elections membership is for the Democratic Party to have two members, the Republican Party to have two members and the fifth member shall be appointed by the Macon-Bibb County Commission from a list of one or more nominees submitted by a majority of the four partisan appointees to the Board of Elections. Mayor Reichert has submitted the name of Michael M. Kaplan to be appointed as the fifth member of the Bibb County Board of Elections. Judd Drake, County Attorney, stated that once the new Board is elected, they will ask the Legislative Delegation to change the member structure and bylaws.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Bivins to table the resolution, the motion failed with Commissioners, DeFore, Bechtel, Jones, Shepherd, Tillman, Watkins and Schlesinger casting dissenting votes.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to strike the name of Michael M. Kaplan as the appointee and submit another name, the motion failed six to three with Commissioners Bivins, Bechtel, Jones, Shepherd, Tillman and Schlesinger casting dissenting votes and Commissioners Lucas, Watkins and DeFore casting the affirmative votes.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried with eight to one with Commissioners DeFore, Jones, Lucas, Shepherd, Schlesinger and Watkins voting in the affirmative and Commissioner Bivins casting the dissenting vote, the resolution appointing Michael M. Kaplan as the fifth member of the Bibb County Board of Elections from a list of nominees provided by the four partisan appointees to the board was approved.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

Janice S. Ross, CCC
Assistant Clerk of the Commission

Approved by:

Jean S. Howard, CMC
Clerk of the Commission