

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
April 1, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on April 1, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins, III
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Elaine Lucas

Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present

Dale Walker, County Manager
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Asst. County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager (Infrastructure)
Charles Coney – Asst. County Manager (Operations)
Chris Floore – Asst. to County Manager - Public Affairs
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Benjamin Hubbard – Director of Human Resources
Stephen Masteller – Director of Information Technology
David Fortson – Director of Engineering
Thomas Buttram – Director of Business Development Services
Gene Simonds – Director of Facilities Management
Clifford Howard – Public Works
Dale Dougherty – Director of Recreation
Samuel Hugley – Director of Vehicle Maintenance
Steve Lawson – Director of Parks & Beautification
Donald Druitt – Director of Emergency Management
Nyesha Daley – Purchasing
Wanzina Jackson – Director of Economic and Community Development
Keith Moffett – Director of E-911
Kevin Barrere – Public Affairs
Robert Faulkner – Judge, Municipal Court
Sarah Tenon – Director of Animal Welfare
Sam Kitchens, Facilities Management
Christy Iuliucci, Finance Director

Guests/Visitors

Edward Vandewalker
Kevin Barkley
Terry Bizzell, Sr.
Adah Roberts
Dr. Lindsay Holliday
Sheriff David Davis

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Shonti Tager– WGXA FOX 24
Sean Franklin – 41 WMGT
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ

The Pre-Commission meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert.

AGENDA ITEMS

The Mayor stated the meeting was being convened as a Committee of the Whole. He also stated several items on the agenda would be taken out of order beginning with items 4, 5, and 6 on the agenda.

The Mayor further stated there were three items on the Finance Committee Agenda from the last meeting for action; however, they did not have a quorum and the Committee of the Whole was convened to hear information on two Resolutions and one Ordinance. The items presented were:

4. Resolution granting approval to draw up to \$417,500 by Urban Development Concepts for the Lamar Drugstore property

The Mayor stated a presentation was made at the Committee meeting by Connie Broun, the Developer – Millworks Holdings of Athens, Georgia, as well as comments made by the County Attorney, Judd Drake.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving a request by Urban Development Concepts, LLC to draw up to \$417,500.00 in additional bond funds from \$5,000,000.00 Development Authority Bond Funds (Newtown Macon/Urban Development Concepts Project) Series 2012 for pre-construction design and engineering expenses related to the renovation of the former Lamar Drugstore property located at 552-580 Cherry Street for a residential and mixed-use development; and for other purposes.**

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

5. Resolution allowing the Mayor to appoint agents, project superintendents, etc. for the various outstanding bond issues of old Macon and Bibb County bonded indebtedness. The Committee amended to add Exhibit A.

The Mayor explained this Resolution was similar to changing the authorized names on a checking account. He also stated a presentation was made by the County Attorney and

Attorney Jim Pannell, who joined the presentation by telephone to explain the change. Attorney Drake stated the Resolution was amended to add Exhibit A and explained the designated authority to Christy Iulucci, Finance Director and Dale Walker, County Manager, and only covers the release of funds and not management of funds or projects.

- **Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to authorize the Mayor to appoint County representatives or project superintendents, City representatives or project superintendents, custodians of funds, persons authorized to make investments, and other persons necessary to act on behalf of Macon-Bibb County with regard to (A) all outstanding general obligation bonds issued by Bibb County or the City of Macon, (B) all revenue bonds of any public authority the payment of which is secured by an intergovernmental contract which obligated the City of Macon or Bibb County to provide money for the payment of such bonds or required the City of Macon or Bibb County to authorize the expenditure of bond proceeds or the investment of funds, (C) all lease or lease purchase agreements between the City of Macon or Bibb County and the Georgia Municipal Association, (D) all intergovernmental contracts, notes or obligations; and for other purposes.**

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

6. Ordinance to provide local preference for procurement services - sponsored by Commissioner Mallory Jones

On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the Ordinance was approved for consideration at tonight's meeting.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas spoke in support of the Ordinance and stated that all constituents should come to the Committee meetings to learn more about items being discussed and acted on.

- **Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend Sec. 19-10 (B) of the Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County, Georgia, so as to provide local preference in the procurement of consulting services to qualified Macon-Bibb County persons, firms, or corporations; an adoption and effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes; and to provide for other lawful purposes.**

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

3. Ordinance to adopt the organizational chart

The Mayor stated the new organizational chart for the new Consolidated Government is slightly different from the organizational chart prepared by the Transition Task Force. The following changes were made: Public Works was divided into three different departments to be allowing each department to be more efficient and focus better on its tasks. Code Enforcement is being

moved from ECD to Business Development Services. Business Development Services will have all commercial and residential code enforcement responsibilities.

- **Clerk read by caption: An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to amend the Macon-Bibb County personnel Policies and Procedures Manual by approving and adopting an organizational chart for Macon-Bibb County; and to provide for other lawful purposes.**

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, the Ordinance was approved by a vote of 6 - 2.

Approval by Commissioners Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman

Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, and Elaine Lucas voted No.

2. Discussion of department head appointments

Mayor Reichert stated the new Macon-Bibb County Charter specifies that a new departmental structure and department heads must be decided within three months into the new Macon-Bibb County Government.

The Mayor introduced the departments heads being nominated for appointment: Human Resources - Ben Hubbard; Business Development Services - Tom Buttram; Facilities Management - Gene Simonds; Recreation - Dale "Doc" Dougherty; Vehicle Maintenance - Sam Hugley; Economic and Community Development - Wanzina Jackson; Parks & Beautification - Stephen Lawson; Emergency Management - Donald Druitt; E-911 - Keith Moffett; Purchasing - Nyesha Daley; Information Technology - Stephen Masteller; Municipal Court - Terry Bizzell, Sr.; Public Works - Clifford Howard; Solid Waste - Kevin Barkley; Engineering - Dave Fortson. The director of Small Business Affairs has not been finalized; additional interviews are being conducted and the appointment will be brought back in a couple of weeks for consideration. The Mayor also stated the pay rate and grade have not been finalized and the appointed department heads are subject to background checks and salary negotiations.

The Mayor asked for a motion to amend the agenda on the advice of the County Attorney to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues regarding the appointment of department heads.

On motion of Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Gary Bechtel, and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to allow an Executive Session.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

On motion of Commissioner Ed DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, and carried unanimously, the Commissioners went into Executive Session at 4:52 P. M. to discuss personnel issues

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larry Schlesinger, and seconded by Commissioner Gary Bechtel, and carried unanimously, to come out of Executive Session.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Ed DeFore, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., and Al Tillman.

The Pre-Commission Meeting was re-convened at 5:50 P.M.

Next on the agenda was a Resolution to name the department heads

Clerk read by caption: A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving and confirming the Mayor's appointment of department heads for Macon-Bibb County; and for other lawful purposes. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Macon-Bibb County Commission and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of the same that pursuant to Section 14 (3) of the Charter of Macon-Bibb County, as amended, the Commission does hereby approve and confirm the Mayor's appointment of the following individuals to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor as department heads for Macon-Bibb County, subject to pending salary negotiations, background checks, and other requirements of Human Resources that may be necessary:

Director of Human Resources	Benjamin Hubbard
Director of Information Technology	Stephen Masteller
Director of Engineering	David Fortson
Director of Small Business Affairs	Pending
Director of Business Development Services	Thomas Buttram
Director of Facilities Management	Gene Simonds
Director of Public Works	Clifford Howard
Director of Recreation	Dale "Doc" Dougherty
Director of Animal Welfare	Edward "Van" Vanderwalker
Director of Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance	Samuel Hugley
Director of Solid Waste	Kevin Barkley
Director of Parks and Beautification	Stephen Lawson
Director of Emergency Management	Donald Druitt
Director of Purchasing	Nyesha Daley
Director of Economic and Community Development	Wanzina Jackson
Director of Municipal Court	Terry Bizzell, Sr.
Director of E-911	Keith Moffett

The Mayor reviewed the agenda items for tonight's Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

PRAYER – Rev. Anthony Corbett – Lundy Chapel Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Pre-Commission Meeting on March 18, 2014
- B. Regular Commission Meeting on March 18, 2014

INVITED GUESTS

Rev. Anthony Corbett – Lundy Chapel Baptist Church

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Reichert asked Committee Chairs to be prepared to give their Committee reports tonight.

- A. Operations and Finance – The Committee met as a Committee of the Whole on action items as there was not a quorum to hold an official meeting.
- B. Economic and Community Development
- C. Public Safety
- D. Facilities and Engineering

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Authorization for Mayor to name representatives for General Obligation or Revenue Bonds
- B. Resolution granting approval to draw up to \$417,500 by UDC for the Lamar Drugstore property
- C. Ordinance to provide local preference for Procurement Services
- D. Resolution making an appointment to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority
- E. Resolution regarding an Anti-Salvaging Policy
- F. Ordinance to adopt an organizational chart
- G. Confirmation of Department Heads

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance for Franchise to Tri-County EMC
To Be Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee
- B. Ordinance for Franchise to Flint Electric Membership Cooperation
To Be Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Pre-Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., Ed DeFore, and Al Tillman.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission