

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

March 9, 2021

The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor Lester M. Miller.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Lester M. Miller
Commissioner Valerie Wynn
Commissioner Paul Bronson
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark
Commissioner Raymond Wilder
Commissioner Bill Howell
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Michael McNeill, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Chris Floore, Public Affairs
Janice Ross, Clerk of Commission
Rachel Gambill, Public Affairs
Julie Moore, Budget and Strategic Planning
Rev. Dr. Henry Ficklin
Joel Callins, Assistant County Attorney
Frank Howard, Assistant County Attorney

VISITORS PRESENT:

Leon Jones, Coroner

1. Announcements

2. Approval of minutes from the February 28, 2021 meeting

On motion of Commissioner Wilder, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the minutes were approved.

3. Items For Financial Consideration

- A. An Ordinance to amend the Coroner's Organizational Chart for purposes of converting one Part-Time Deputy Coroner Position to a Full Time Deputy Coroner Position; to provide for the transfer and supplementation of funding therefore (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to amend the Coroner's Organizational Chart for purposes of converting one part time deputy coroner position to a full time Deputy Coroner Position was approved.

- B. An Ordinance to authorize a budget transfer within the Information Technology Department Budget in the total amount of \$100,000 to provide funds for Network Security Licensing Costs (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried eight to one with Commissioners Wynn, Bronson, Lucas, Jones, Clark, Wilder, Howell, and Watkins casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Tillman casting the dissenting vote the ordinance for a budget transfer for IT was approved.

- C. A Resolution authorizing acceptance of the Bill Terrell Conservation Grant in the amount of \$15,000 with no local match requirement, to be used by the Parks and Beautification

Department for the purpose of restoring a natural bird habitat at Randall Park (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Resolution accepting the Bill Terrell Conservation Grant was approved.

- D. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Discretionary Grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 with no local match requirement, to be used by the Bibb County Sheriff's Office Community Fund to assist in working with homeless persons in the Downtown Macon Area (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation for the Bibb County Sheriff's was approved.

- E. A Resolution authorizing acceptance of Grant Funds in the amount of \$1,500 from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Inc., Booker-Ray Fund with no local match requirement, to be used by the Parks and Beautification Department for the purpose of replacing and adding new roses at the Historic Rose Hill Cemetery (sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the Grant Funds from the Community Foundation for Parks and Beautification Department was approved.

4. Executive Session

- A. 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); Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E); and Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2);

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the meeting 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); Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E); and Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2);

5. New Alcohol Beverage Licenses

- A. New Alcohol Beverage License for Ricky's Taco Shop located at 518 Cherry street, Macon, GA 31201

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the New Alcohol Beverage License for Ricky's Taco Shop was approved.

- B. New Alcohol Beverage License for Family Food 2793 located at 2793 Montpelier Avenue, Macon, GA

Mayor Miller removed the license for Family Food from the agenda.

- C. New Alcohol Beverage License for Hailey's Lounge located at 2308 Ingleside Avenue, Macon, GA 31204

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously the new alcohol beverage license for Hailey's Lounge was approved.

- D. New Alcohol Beverage License for Quik Trip #1722 located at 4934 Sardis Church Road, Macon, GA 31216

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the license for Quik Trip was approved.

- E. New Alcohol Beverage License for Sachin and Simal, LLC, d.b.a. Quick Stop located at 6394 Zebulon Road, Suite 101, Macon, GA 31210

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the license for Sachin and Simal was approved.

- F. New Alcohol Beverage License for Kitchen Pride Food Store located at 3101 Columbus Road, Macon, GA 31204

Mayor Miller removed the license for Kitchen Pride Food Store from the agenda.

- G. New Alcohol Beverage License for 3726 Jeffersonville LLC d.b.a. Jeffersonville Grocery, located at 3726 Jeffersonville Road, Macon, GA

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the license for Jeffersonville Grocery was approved.

- H. New Alcohol Beverage License for Fasttrac located at 260 Tom Hill Sr. Blvd, Macon, GA 31210

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the license for Fasttrac was approved.

- I. New Alcohol Beverage License for Emery Highway, Inc d.b.a. Exxon Food Mart located at 2630 Emery Highway, Macon, GA 31217

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the license for Exxon Food Mart was approved.

- J. New Alcohol Beverage License for New Taco Girl, LLC located at 894 College Street, Macon, GA 31201

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the license for Taco Girl was approved.

- K. New Alcohol Beverage License for Manek 2021 Inc, d.b.a. Bloomfield Mart, located at 4175 Bloomfield Road, Macon, GA 31206

Mayor Miller removed the license for Manek from the agenda.

- L. New Alcohol Beverage License for Chevron Food Mart located at 1106 Rocky Creek Rd, Macon, GA 31210
Recommended Tabled at the February 16, 2021 meeting

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the item was removed from the table.

After discussion, Mayor Miller placed the item back on the table to give the owner a chance to address the Commission at the next Committee meeting.

6. Changes To The Code

- A. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of the Code to provide for additional distance requirements in the licensing of businesses selling alcoholic beverages by the package to go near churches or recreations centers; to terminate the licensing privileges of vice marts (Sponsored by Commissioner Paul Bronson, Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark, and Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.)

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried to six to three with Commissioners Wynn, Jones, Clark, Wilder, Howell and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Bronson, Lucas and Watkins casting the dissenting votes, the Amendment which would allow for a grandfather clause for existing businesses was approved.

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously the Ordinance was approved as amended.

- B. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 22, Articles II and V of the Code for the purpose of establishing Macon-Bibb County as the exclusive collector of commercial solid waste and providing for franchise fees for such collection activities (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Ordinance establishing Macon-Bibb County as the exclusive collector of commercial solid waste was approved.

7. Contracts For Implementation Or Renewal

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Third Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Due South Investments LLC to extend the lease for seven years and to convert the lease to a fixed term lease with a 3% increase of the annual base rent due (Sponsored by Lester M. Miller and Paul Bronson)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the Resolution to approve the Third Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Due South was approved.

8. Rev. Ronald E. Terry Way

- A. An Ordinance to dedicate Fellowship Drive as "Rev. Ronald E. Terry Sr., Way, in honor of Rev. Ronald E. Terry Sr.'s contribution to his community (sponsored by Commissioners Elaine Lucas and Paul Bronson)

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to dedicate Fellowship Drive as Reverend Ronald E. Terry, Sr. Way was approved.

9. Reducing Jail Population

- A. A Resolution requesting immediate action to reduce the overall jail population, during the COVID-19 Pandemic to allow for improved social distancing, safety and health care (Sponsored by Commissioners Virgil Watkins, Paul Bronson and Elaine Lucas)

Commissioner Lucas moved to amend the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark the motion to amend the Resolution to "A Resolution expressing support of action to reduce the overall jail population during the COVID-19 Pandemic" and remove all other Whereas" passed by a vote of seven to two with Commissioners Bronson, Lucas, Clark, Wilder, Howell, Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioners Wynn and Jones casting the dissenting votes.

10. Points of Personal Privileges

Commissioner Lucas stated that she is concerned regarding the recent bills with voting changes. She continued that she is concerned regarding the cost of these changes.

Commissioner Tillman stated that COVID has been here for a year that we can all relate to that but we cannot relate to individuals being in jail. The vaccination is available and he encouraged everyone to get the vaccine shot.

Commissioner Wynn commended Mayor Miller and the legislative delegation for getting the OLOST through the process. She asked that Mayor Miller to inform the public on how the funds will be spent.

Mayor Pro Tem Clark stated that he wanted to thank the people who made it possible for the residents of Vineville Christian Towers to receive their first COVID Vaccination. He thanked Craig Ross, President and CEO of the Transit Authority, for providing transportation to the Board of Health and set up plans for the residents to receive their second shots. The leadership at Vineville Christian Towers is thankful to all those who made it possible for the 60 residents to receive their vaccinations. He also expressed gratitude for the increase capacity due to the mass vaccination site, the assist the citizens of Macon-Bibb County to receive their vaccinations.

Mayor Miller stated that one thing he talked about was leading by example. He tries always to be inclusive and the fact that the Commission passed unanimously the Resolution asking the legislative delegation to pass the OLOST was what happens when they all work together. He continued that Mayor Pro Tem Clark and himself spent a good time in Atlanta yesterday dealing with the legislative delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, as they passed the law by a vote of 162 to 0 including six of our delegation. What united them was our being united to move forward in Macon-Bibb County. We have secured the mass vaccination center and that is because of our relationship with the Governor's Office. He continued that no matter who sits in that office, we will continue to have a working relationship with that office. It is because of that relationship, that 10,000 citizens received their COVID vaccination. This is something we all can be proud of. A few weeks ago we sent 54 letters out and received options back 35. All 35 have been tested for asbestos and removal will start immediately. He continued that we are now looking at the next 100.

Mayor Miller continued that we had a very fruitful conversation today and he loves having conversations where people act professionally and use decorum. He asked that they be mindful of the people who were sitting around them. They may vote against an item but need to be friends afterwards and move forward to the next issue. He continued that this is something that we must do

to move forward together. He thanked them for addressing each other by their respected titles by either Mr. / Mrs. Or Commissioner.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Commission