

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
March 4, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on March 4, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. in the Large Conference Room 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

Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Asst. County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager (Infrastructure)
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Operations)
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Public Affairs
Julie Moore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Strategic Planning & Budget
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Sam Henderson – Exec. Asst. to Board of Commissioners

Guests/Visitors

None

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph

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

Mayor Reichert stated he had been asked by the County Attorney, Judd Drake, to add an item to tonight's Agenda for informational purposes in regards to litigation involving the Board of Elections.

On Motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the addition of the litigation item to tonight's agenda was approved.

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.

Attorney Drake distributed and read a letter addressed to Mayor Reichert from Steve Allen, Vice-Chair of the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections. In the letter, Mr. Allen requests, pursuant to Section 18-153 of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances, defense by attorney

in the Civil Action filed against him in his capacity as a member of the Board of Elections by the Bibb County Democratic Party. The Civil Suit contends that Mr. Allen is not properly qualified to serve as a member of the Board of Elections. Attorney Drake cited the Macon-Bibb County Statute requiring legal assistance be provided for Mr. Allen. He stated he would be selecting an attorney he normally works with to provide legal assistance to Mr. Allen.

The Mayor reviewed the agenda items for tonight's Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 P.M., and stated that all items under New Business would be referred to a committee.

AGENDA ITEMS:

PRAYER – Dr. I. Edwin Mack – Unionville Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

INVITED GUESTS

Dr. I. Edwin Mack – Unionville Baptist Church

Mayor Reichert stated it was his intent to recognize and present the March 2014 Women's History Month Resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Lucas, and listed under the Consent Agenda, and that the approval of the Resolution would be done at the time of presentation.

It was decided that Commissioner Lucas, along with any female County employees and/or guests present at tonight's meeting, would be recognized by way of the Resolution by Mayor Reichert.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Reichert asked Committee Chairs to give their Committee reports.

- A. Operations and Finance
- B. Economic and Community Development
- C. Public Safety
- D. Facilities and Engineering

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. A Resolution recognizing March 2014 as Women's History Month was moved to Invited Guests for adoption at tonight's meeting.
- B. New 2014 Alcoholic Beverage License for Raceway located at 5127 Mercer University Drive.
- C. New 2014 Alcoholic Beverage License for Texaco located at 4476 Ocmulgee East Boulevard.

Mayor Reichert stated the two new Alcoholic Beverage Licenses had gone through the proper approval channels to be approved by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Reichert stated he placed the Resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Tillman, to rename the gym at Freedom Park in honor of Bishop Frank Ray as the first item to be acted on at tonight's meeting and prior to the policy for naming and renaming parks, facilities and streets.

- A. Resolution to rename Freedom Park Gym in honor of Bishop Frank Ray
- B. Resolution regarding an RFQ for a consultant to do a Needs Analysis for a Disparity Study
- C. Resolution regarding the hiring of a Director of the Office of Small Business Affairs
- D. Resolution for Public Safety SPLOST-funded emergency equipment for Sheriff's Department vehicles
- E. Ordinance to fund position of Assistant Solicitor
- F. Ordinance regarding improvements at Lake Tobesofkee
- G. Ordinance to fund temporary Assistant Engineer position
- H. Ordinance to fund salaries and benefits for the Director of Small Business Affairs (Designated in Consolidation Bill)
- I. Ordinance to transfer funds from E-911 to Sheriff's Department
- J. Ordinance to transfer funds from Commissary Funds to replace air handlers in the jail
- K. Ordinance to transfer funds from Fund Balance to Bowden Golf Course for Improvements
- L. Resolution to purchase ten (10) lots and establish Oak Haven Parking using CDBG Funds

- M. Resolution to support submission of a GDOT Gateway Grant for Pio Nono/Rocky Creek Intersection of I-75
- N. Resolution for the construction of the Macon-Bibb County Animal Shelter
- O. Resolution to adopt a policy naming and renaming parks, facilities and streets owned by Macon-Bibb County

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution for Self-Insured Certification for Workers Compensation
To Be Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee
- B. Ordinance regarding the operation of Ambulance Services
To Be Referred To: Public Safety Committee
- C. Ordinance to amend FY 14 Parks and Recreation Budget for Freedom Park
To Be Referred To: Operations and Finance Committee
- D. Resolution streets and drainage systems in Beaumont Heights Subdivision
To Be Referred To: Facilities and Engineering Committee
- E. Resolution regarding the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in Downtown Macon
To Be Referred To: Economic and Community Development Committee

Mayor Reichert stated he would be referring by letter the establishment of a Civil Service Board for the Fire Department to the Public Safety Committee.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and on motion by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 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