

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

February 23, 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:

Jared
Jermaine Hill, General Manager, ADS

1. Announcements

- Mayor Miller announced that Macon-Bibb County was very fortunate to have opened a mass vaccination site. This will increase the number of vaccinations by 5,500.
- Mayor Miller announced that 60 letters had been sent out regarding on burn out structures. Twenty people had responded. Demolition should start within the next two weeks.

2. Approval of minutes from the February 9, 2021 meeting

On motion of Commissioner Bronson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the minutes were approved.

3. New Alcohol Beverage Licenses

A. New Alcohol Beverage License for Discount Zone located at 2031 Shurling Drive, Macon, GA 31211

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Jones the license for Discount Zone was removed from the tabled.

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the New Alcohol Beverage License for Discount Zone was approved.

- B. New Alcohol Beverage License for Chevron Food Mart located at 1106 Rocky Creek Rd, Macon, GA 31210

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to table passed by a vote of eight to one with Commissioners Wynn, Bronson, Lucas, Clark, Wilder, Howell, Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Jones casting the dissenting vote.

4. Changes to the Code

- A. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of the Code to provide for the training and licensure of private security businesses and employees; to require the use of security cameras in certain establishments (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark, Commissioner Valerie Wynn, Commissioner Mallory Jones, Commissioner Bill Howell, Commissioner Virgil Watkins)

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the Ordinance was amended to include an effective date of July 1, 2021.

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

5. Appointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions

- A. A Resolution appointing Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark to the Macon-Bibb County Board of Health to succeed Joe Allen (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller and seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem Clark was appointed to the Board of Health.

- B. A Resolution reappointing Commissioner Elaine Lucas to the Macon-Bibb County Board of Health (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, Commissioner Lucas was reappointed to the Board of Health.

- C. A Resolution appointing Jake Hall and Paul Little to the Equity and Civility Advisory Board (Sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins)

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the appointments of Jake Hall and Paul Little to the Equity and Civility Advisory Board was approved.

6. Items for Financial Consideration

- A. An Ordinance to authorize a supplemental budget appropriation from insurance premium tax and LOST surplus revenues to various departmental budget's in the total amount of \$3,083,972 to provide funding for expenses related to pay scale implementation (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the ordinance to authorize a budget appropriation from insurance premium tax and LOST surplus revenues to various departmental budget's in the amount of \$3,083,972 was approved.

- B. An Ordinance to authorize a budget transfer within the Cooperative Extension Service Departmental Budget in the total amount of \$13,000 to provide for wages for temporary workers (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller and Commissioner Paul Bronson)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the transfer within the Cooperative Extension Service in the amount of \$13,000 was approved.

- C. An Ordinance to authorize a budget transfer within the Lake Tobesofkee Fund in the total amount of \$15,500 to provide funds for campground facilities (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the transfer in the amount of \$15,000 within the Tobesofkee budget was approved.

- D. An Ordinance to authorize a budget transfer within the Parks & Beautification Departmental budget in the total amount of \$50,000 to provide funds for the payment of overtime expenses (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller and Commissioner Paul Bronson)

On motion of Commissioner Bronson, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously the transfer within the Parks and Beautification budget in the amount of \$50,000 was approved.

- E. An Ordinance to amend the Office of Communications Organizational Chart for the purpose of adding two new public relations specialist positions; to provide supplemental funding from fund balance in the amount of \$58,397 (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the Communications Organizational Chart to add two new positions were approved.

- F. An Ordinance to amend the Recreation Department's Organizational Chart for purposes of adding a New Community Center Coordinator II Position; to provide supplemental funding from fund balance in the amount of \$16,584 (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller and Commissioner Paul Bronson)

On motion of commissioner Bronson, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Organization Chart for the Recreation Department was amended to add a new position and to provide for funding from fund balance was approved.

- G. An Ordinance to authorize the appropriation of up to \$14,714,211 in 2018 SPLOST Proceeds for various planned expenditures as described herein (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Tillman, the motion to table failed by a vote of seven to two with Commissioners Wynn, Bronson, Lucas, Jones, Clark, Wilder and Howell casting the dissenting votes and Commissioners Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative vote.

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried by a vote of eight to one with Commissioners Wynn, Bronson, Lucas, Jones, Wilder, Howell, and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Watkins casting the dissenting vote the appropriation of up to \$14,714,211 for SPLOST expenditures was approved.

7. Contracts for Implementation or Renewal

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Community Foundation of

Central Georgia, Inc to establish the Rosa Parks Square Fund for the development of Rosa Parks Square Park (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark and Commissioner Paul Bronson)

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Clark, seconded by Commissioner Bronson, the agreement with the Community Foundation to establish the Rosa Park Square Fund for development of Rosa Parks Square was approved.

- B. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into Professional Services Agreements with Allen Law Firm, LLC and Seekie Law Firm, LLC, each in the amount of \$13,000 annually, to provide indigent defense services for the Macon-Bibb County Municipal Court, with funds to be provided from the Macon-Bibb County Municipal Court Budget - Professional Services - Indigent Counsel Line Item (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the Agreement with Allen Law Firm and Seekie Law Firm for indigent defense was approved.

- C. A Resolution Of The Macon-Bibb County Commission Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Professional Services Agreement With The Southern Center For Choice Theory, LLC In The Amount Of \$50,000 Monthly To Provide Mental Health Services At No Cost For Certain Marginalized Communities In Macon-Bibb County, To Be Paid From Cares Act Grant Funds – Contractual Services Line Item;⁷ (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark, Commissioner Paul Bronson, Commissioner Mallory Jones, Commissioner Valerie Wynn and Commissioner Elaine Lucas)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Agreement with Southern Center for Choice Theory to provide Mental Health Services was approved.

- D. A Resolution Of The Macon-Bibb County Commission Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Intergovernmental Agreement With Macon-Bibb County Community Enhancement Authority For Lease Of The Booker T. Washington Community Resource Center In Exchange For Payment Of Utilities, Maintenance, And Management Of The Facility; (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Agreement with the Community Enhancement Authority for lease of the Booker T. Washington Community Resource Center was approved.

- E. A Resolution Of The Macon-Bibb County Commission Authorizing The Mayor To Enter A County Internship Program Grant Agreement With Association County Commissioners of Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation, Inc. For The Purpose Of Receiving Reimbursement For Certain Costs Associated With Employing County Interns in approved grant funded positions From May 1, 2021 Through September 30, 2021; (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller and Commissioner Paul Bronson)

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the Agreement with ACCG for employing county interns was approved.

- F. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an amendment to contract C-15-003(d) with Advanced Disposal Services Macon, LLC for the purpose of adding the weekly collection of household yard waste and bulky waste throughout Macon-Bibb County for, an estimated additional cost of \$2,720,520 per year, effective April 1, 2021, payable from the Solid Waste Budget - Collections Division - Contract Labor - Contractual Services Line Item (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the amendment to the ADS contract to add weekly collection of household yard waste and bulky waste was approved.

- G. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Fifth Amendment to the Master Solar Energy Procurement Agreement with Cherry Street Energy for the construction of a New Solar Array Project at the Animal Shelter to provide solar power improvements with no added cost to Macon-Bibb County (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller and Commissioner Paul Bronson)

On motion of Commissioner Bronson, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously the Fifth Amendment to the Master Solar Energy Agreement with Cherry Street Energy was approved.

- H. 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)

Mayor Miller removed the lease agreement with Due South to be considered at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

8. Dedication of Road

- A. An Ordinance to dedicate a portion of Hightower Road as "Apostle Ernestine Brown Sherard Way" in honor of Apostle Ernestine Brown Sherard's contribution to her community. (Sponsored by Commissioner Elaine Lucas)

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the dedication of a portion of Hightower Road as Apostle Ernestine Brown Sherard Way was approved.

9. Informational Items

- 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, Al Tillman, Paul Bronson and Elaine Lucas)
- B. 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, Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr. and Commissioner Valerie Wynn)
- C. 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)

10. Executive Session

On motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Bronson 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);.

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