

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
February 18, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on February 18, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. in the large conference at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

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

Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman

Absent:

Commissioner Gary Bechtel

Staff Present

Dale Walker – County Manager
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Stuart Morelli – Asst. County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Steve Layson – Asst. County Manager
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
Doron Dvorak – Compliance Officer
Christy Iuliucci – Finance Director
Sam Henderson – Exec. Asst. to Board of Commissioners

Guests/Visitors

Attorney Virgil Adams
Adah Roberts

News Media Present

Phillip Ramati – The Telegraph
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ

The Pre-Commission meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert. 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. Tim McCoy - Ingleside Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Pre-Commission Meeting on February 4, 2014
- B. Regular Commission Meeting on February 4, 2014

INVITED GUESTS

Dr. Tim McCoy – Ingleside Baptist Church

Mayor Reichert stated it was his intent to recognize and present the Resolution that is listed under the Consent Agenda heading to Dr. McCoy. The approval of the Resolution would be done at the time of presentation.

Gwennette Westbrooks and members of the NAACP

Commissioners Bivins and Tillman requested the Black History Month Proclamation be presented to Ms. Westbrooks and other NAACP members present at tonight's meeting.

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

Commissioner Tillman asked for clarification on how and when on the Agenda should he disagree with the Committee on renaming the gym at Freedom Park, and ask for a vote to be taken for the item to be placed on the next Regular Commission Agenda. County Attorney Judd Drake advised the action could be taken when he gave his committee report. Commissioner Lucas suggested background checks be done prior to any renaming of facilities.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. A Resolution recognizing Ingleside Baptist Church for honoring Commissioners
This item received unanimous approval of the Economic and Community Development Committee on February 11th to be moved to the Consent Agenda for adoption at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. An Ordinance to appropriate \$125,460 from Fund Balance to the Board of Elections to fund unexpected expenses.
- B. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to adopt the Second Amendment to the Bibb County Pension Plan of 1968.
- C. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission requesting that the state of Georgia Social Security Coordinator be notified of Macon-Bibb County's desire to hold a Referendum by its employees participating in or eligible for the Bibb County Plan and Macon Plan A.
- D. A Resolution delegating to the Tax Commissioner the authority to waive the collection of amounts representing penalties and interest assessed for failure to pay ad valorem taxes.
- E. A Resolution to setting the expense allowance for the first day of service for Grand and Traverse Jurors at twenty-five dollars.
- F. An Ordinance to appropriate \$8,000 from Fund Balance to Clerk of Superior Court.
- G. Approval of Retirements: Donald Balkcom of Custodial Services (29 years & five months) and Sheila Jackson of Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful (15 years).
- H. A Resolution to request adoption of a Local Act of the General Assembly establishing a Community Improvement District along Eisenhower Parkway between Interstate 75 and Interstate 475.
- I. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission approving the request of Jeremy Bryant to put on a fireworks display at Arrowhead Park on Memorial Day Weekend.
- J. A Resolution regarding a Disparity Study.

Discussion: It was agreed to go forward with the selection and hiring of a Director of the Office of Small Business Affairs. Mayor Reichert stated the Director would be a Department Head whose hiring would have to be approved by the Commission. The Mayor stated the position has been posted and advertised and has already received a few applications. After concerns were raised by Commissioner Watkins, Bivins, and others about the Disparity Study, it was agreed to refer the Resolution back to Committee for further discussion and clarification.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Supplemental Budget Requests
- B. A Resolution appointing agents to Pension Plan.

This Resolution was amended to require two signatures instead of one by the Committee of the Whole for approval at tonight's meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the County Attorney requested to meet with Commissioners in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Watkins, and carried unanimously, the Commission went into Executive Session at 5:32 p.m.

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

Upon initial disclosure of the specific litigation, Mayor Reichert and Commissioner Jones announced a conflict of interest and left the room.

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the meeting was re-opened.

Unanimous Approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Scotty Shepherd, Virgil Watkins, Jr., Ed DeFore, and Al Tillman.

Mayor Reichert and Commissioner Jones re-entered the room.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission