

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

December 14, 2021

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Lester M. Miller
Mayor Pro Tem Seth Clark (by phone)
Commissioner Paul Bronson
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Raymond Wilder
Commissioner Bill Howell
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Valerie Wynn

GUESTS PRESENT:

Stephen Adams, Exec. Dir, Industrial Authority
Robbie Fountain, Chairman, Industrial Authority
Dwight Jones, Vice Chairman, Industrial Authority
Wimberly Treadwell,

OTHERS PRESENT:

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Michael McNeill, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Adrianna Beavers, Assistant County Attorney
Frank Howard, Assistant County Attorney
Sara Davis, Assistant County Attorney
Keith Moffett, County Manager
Janice Ross, Clerk of Commission
Julie Moore, Budget and Strategic Planning
Dr. Henry Ficklin
Chris Floore, Public Affairs
Olivia Walter, Communications
Edna Ruiz, Communications
Sheriff David Davis
Michael Glisson, Director, Parks and Beautification

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Pre-Commission meeting acting as Committee of the Whole from December 7, 2021

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the minutes of December 7, 2021 was approved.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robbie Fountain, Chairman of the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, was joined by Dwight Jones and Stephen Adams who thanked the Commission for their support. Macon-Bibb County has been accredited by the International Economic development Council as an Economic and Community Development Organization. Mr. Fountain continued that there were one of 67 Economic Development Organizations accredited. IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle stated "MBCIA displays the professionalism, commitment and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor". Mr. Fountain thanked Stephen Adams for his hard work and commitment to the Authority. He updated the Commission on the accomplishments of 2021 which included Dean Baldwin, Schnizer and Robins North is at 100% capacity.

Mr. Fountain stated that in 2017 started the Pilot Payment Program to give incentive to companies to come to Macon-Bibb County. He continued that today the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority is pleased to present Macon-Bibb County with a check for \$1,395,628.00 for the pilot program.

Commissioner Howell stated that he had heard a lot of talk about what Macon-Bibb County gives the Industrial Authority. He hoped everyone now understands what we give to the Industrial Authority you give back to Macon-Bibb County. He thanked the Industrial Authority for all they do for Macon-Bibb County.

3. NEW ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSES

- A. New Alcohol Beverage License for Discount Grocery located at 2596 Rocky Creek Road, Macon, GA 31216

Recommended Action: Legal recommends denial based on the inspection of the premises found it failed to meet criteria of a grocery store because the business offered no fresh produce, eggs, or fresh meat and was smaller than the 10,000 square feet requirements to qualify as a grocery store.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Clark, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the license was denied.

- B. New Alcohol Beverage License for Beverage South Macon located at 4100 San Carlos Drive, Macon, GA 31206

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the license for the new Alcohol Beverage license for Beverage South was approved.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS

- A. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Council of Accountability Courts Judges Housing Grant through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program from the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, in the amount of \$132,510 with no local match, awarded to the Macon Judicial Circuit Accountability Court Programs (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the grant for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program was approved.

5. TABLED

- A. A. An Ordinance authorizing Macon-Bibb County to take all necessary steps to implement a comprehensive census of its citizens experiencing homelessness and provide funding for street level social workers to provide contact and guidance to service providers; using up to \$250,000 in American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the provision of services to disproportionately impacted communities in the form of housing support and services for the unhoused (Sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Commissioner Lucas)

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

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried by a vote of seven to one with Commissioners Bronson, Lucas, Clark, Wilder, Howell, and Tillman casting the assenting vote and Commissioner Jones casting the dissenting vote, the Ordinance was approved.

6. CONTRACTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OR RENEWAL

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for construction with Sam Hall & Sons, Inc. for the renovation of Gateway Park, in the amount of \$166,413 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Parks and Beautification Building and Building Improvements (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Clark and seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the Resolution regarding the renovations of Gateway Park was untabled.

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Resolution to enter into a contract with Sam Hall & Sons for renovation of Gateway Park was approved.

- B. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a lease agreement with Sandra Khoury for 203 West White Road, Byron, Georgia in the amount of \$1350 per month plus utilities and insurance, payable out of the Circuit Public Defender's Office budget for use by the Circuit Public Defender's Office (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the agreement with Sandra Khoury was approved.

7. APPROPRIATIONS

- A. A. Ordinance to Amend the FY 2021 General Fund Budget to \$186,392,211 in total revenues and \$186,392,211 in total expenditures resulting in a supplemental appropriation of \$2,551,318 and other year end adjustments (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Commissioner Howell, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to amend the FY2021 budget was approved.

- B. A Resolution authorizing a supplemental appropriation from Confiscated Fund Balance in the total amount of \$60,000 to provide funds for payment of settlement agreement (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Clark, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the Resolution to appropriate Confiscated Fund for payment of settlement agreement was approved.

8. STATE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- A. A Resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation introduce or support legislation that would increase the per diem rate for the residential care and treatment of abused and neglected children (Sponsored by Commissioner Mallory Jones and Commissioners Lucas, Bronson, Howell, Wilder and Mayor Pro Tem Clark)

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the Resolution to support a per diem increase for care of abused and neglected children was approved.

9. CHANGE TO THE CODE

- A. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 7, Article II, Division 22, Section 7-512 of the Code for the purpose of imposing additional minimum distance requirements on businesses offering coin operated amusement machines to the public (Sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the item was untabled.

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Bronson, Lucas, Jones, Wilder and Howell casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Clark, Watkins and Tillman casting the dissenting votes, the Ordinance was tabled to make time for consideration during a work session.

10. 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 and seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the meeting went into Executive Session for the above stated reasons.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Macon-Bibb County Commission