

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
January 21, 2014 – 10:00 A.M.
Government Center
(Small Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on January 21, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. in the small conference at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert
Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins, III
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III

Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger

Staff Present

Dale Walker – County Manager
Judd Drake – County Attorney
Stuart Morelli – Asst. County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Charles Coney – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Operations)
Steve Layson – Asst. Co. Mgr. (Infrastructure)
Chris Floore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Public Affairs
Julie Moore – Asst. to Co. Mgr. - Strategic Plng. & Bdgt.

Ben Hubbard – H. R. Director
Bel Wall – Asst. H. R. Director
Don Druitt – Director of EMA
Dave Fortson – County Engineer
Justin Crum – IT
Jean S. Howard – Asst. Clerk
Janice Ross – Training & Events
Sam Henderson – Executive Asst. to Comms.

Guests/Visitors

Sheriff David Davis
Tommy Tedders – Tax Commissioner
Leonard Bevill – Macon Occupational Medicine
Jan Baggarly – UGA Cooperative Extension Office
Rick Waller – Public Defender's Office
Mark Butcher, Ticket Master

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Katelyn Heck – 13 WMAZ

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert and on motion by Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the meeting was resolved into a Committee of the Whole.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- EMA Director, Don Druitt, volunteered to remove his vehicles from the EMA bunker to accommodate parking for the Mayor and Commissioners. The Mayor and Commissioners will now have permanent designated parking spaces atop the EMA bunker at Government Center.

- Tommy Tedders, Macon-Bibb County Tax Commissioner, will make a presentation encompassing his office's operations and functions at the Tuesday, January 28th Work Session at 5:00 P.M.
- Mike Dyer, President, Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, will present the Market Street Plan at the Tuesday, January 28th Work Session at 5:00 P.M.

Dale Walker - County Manager:

1. Hand-out - Presented the Chart of Organization that was approved by the Transition Task Force and brought into the new consolidated government (*these are recommendations - not binding per Mayor Reichert*).
2. Hand-out - Mayor's recommendations for the transition.
3. Recapped the Assistant County Manager of Operations and Assistant County Manager of Facilities areas of responsibility and departments that fall under each.
4. Two major differences between the Mayor's Chart of Organization and the Transition Task Force are the Office of Strategic Planning and Budget, and the Office of Public Affairs.
5. Agenda item: Resolution for E-911 department (Public Safety, Emergency Management) which was previously a division of the Police department will be a new department with Keith Moffett as Director. Lt. Andrea Grinstead, Sheriff's Office, is serving as liaison to assist with the E-911 conversion. Sheriff Davis concurred with this being a part of the County and not the Sheriff's Office because of Fire and EMA responsibilities and dispatch.
6. Hand-out – Monthly report on the Second Street Revitalization Project prepared by Clay Murphy.
7. The City of Macon, again, won the annual Distinguished Budget Presentation Award which validates that we are meeting national accounting standards.
8. Letter of Request sent to Ralph Nix for a proposal for the Regional Commission to oversee the Geographic Information System (GIS). The RC has the proper software, equipment, and manpower needed to properly run the GIS system; the County does not. The Sheriff's Office and Engineering department will continue to do mapping and research with RC oversight.
9. Bob Brown of BTBB has been asked for prices for additional design work to be done. BTBB began consolidation facility design changes under the Consolidation Task Force, and is being retained to continue office reconfigurations, restructuring, and office renovations such as the old Sears building, the Courthouse, Sheriff's Downtown Annex, and other office changes. The contract is presently still with the Transition Task Force and ends January 1, 2015. Commissioner Lucas would like an update at a later time on the automatic 5% increase in the contract with real numbers provided.
10. Macon and Bibb County signs are being changed as needed in coordination with GDOT as needed.
11. Davenport & Company recommended as financial adviser and will be going to Washington to meet with Moody's with our latest financial updates and for a review of the County's bond rating.
12. The new 800 MHz system turn switch should be ready to go by February 15th Monroe County and other surrounding counties have expressed an interest in this being a regional concept.
13. Hand-out - A list of numbers to call for problems with dogs includes the numbers for animal welfare and others. Commissioner Lucas requested these numbers be

included on all lists disseminated, Channel 14, and other media. Chris Floore will facilitate this action.

14. Jeffersonville Road Project – Estimates provided. The County will be responsible for soft costs which are all appraisals and legal work required to acquire the parcels. The cost for acquiring right of way is estimated at 7.5 million dollars over the next two years. The County is to be reimbursed by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Dave Fortson stated acquisition of parcels has begun according to GDOT's schedule. Mr. Fortson gave an overview of what has been done and upcoming projects. The Jeffersonville Road Project is part of the Bibb County 1994 Road Improvement Program (SPLOST). It will take approximately two years to acquire all parcels. Construction is to begin in 2015.
15. Garbage pick-up – Handicap garbage pick-up was addressed. Commissioner Lucas asked if Jones County services are now totally with Jones County. Mr. Walker responded that they are. Mayor Reichert stated that in the future, if Jones County is interested, an intergovernmental or community improvement district agreement with Jones County could be considered at a later date.
16. Chris Floore announced the January 31 - February 1 Macon-Bibb Commission Work Session to be held in Athens, Georgia beginning at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, January 31st. Commissioners were asked to leave Macon no later than twelve noon on Friday. The Work Session is scheduled to conclude on Saturday, February 1st at 4:00 P.M. Gordon Maner with the University of Georgia - Carl Vinson Institute of Government will be the facilitator. Gordon will meet with all Commissioners this week, one on one, to discuss their priorities and objectives. The times the Commissioners will meet with Gordon has been coordinated by Janice Ross.

AGENDA ITEMS:

PRAYER – Dr. Maurice Watson of Beulahland Bible Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING-IN-CEREMONY (for Larry Schlesinger Commissioner, District 2)

The oath will be administered by Chief Judge Bill Adams – Macon-Bibb County State Court.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Submitted as Draft – Mayor Reichert recommended changing board members present to commission members present, and changed the Amerson Water Works Park match from Georgia Department of Transportation to the match being made by the Urban Development Authority.

INVITED GUESTS

Chris Sheridan – Chris was contacted to bid on removing the mold and mildew spots on the front of Government Center. An estimate of \$6,000 was received. After assessing the project, Chris volunteered to do the pressure washing for free. He also pressure washed the

auditorium. The Mayor expressed a need to acknowledge and thank Chris Sheridan publicly for his generous contribution and services rendered.

C-SPAN – As part of the C-SPAN Cities Tour, C-SPAN in partnership with Cox Cable will be in Macon all week. Macon will be featured on two C-SPAN stations February 15th and 16th. Macon will be the first of 24 communities across the country to be highlighted. Macon's history and literary culture were determining factors in Macon being chosen for the C-SPAN Cities Tour. This is a paid project by all cable companies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

The Committee of the Whole met at 10:00 A.M. and approved items for tonight's regular meeting agenda.

The Committee on Committees met and established four committees and assigned five Commissioners to each. The Committees are:

1. Operations and Finance - Charles Coney is the staff contact.
2. Economic and Community Development – Julie Moore is the staff contact.
3. Public Safety – Dale Walker is the staff contact or his designee.
4. Facilities and Engineering – Steve Layson is the staff contact.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution delegating to the Mayor the authority to sign alcoholic beverage license renewals that meet all the requirements of the Macon-Bibb County alcohol beverage code.

The Clerk of Commission will provide a list of alcoholic license renewals to Commissioners as they occur.

The alcoholic beverage license renewals have to be approved and signed off on by the Tax Commissioner, Sheriff and State Court Solicitor before coming to the Mayor for signature of approval.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. An Ordinance amending Chapter 2 Administration of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances to establish the E-911 Department

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Tillman, and carried unanimously, the above stated Ordinance was approved for official adoption.

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

- B. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Circuit Public Defender's Office of the Macon Judicial Circuit, along with the governing authorities of Peach and Crawford Counties, for the provision of criminal defense for indigent persons in the Macon Judicial Circuit. Rick Wall gave an overview of the agreement and function of the Public Defender's office representing indigent defendants. The present agreement has been in existence since 2005. Peach and Crawford counties are also parties to the agreement.

On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- C. Resolution commending the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) on the occasion of its Centennial.

The Mayor stated, normally, this would be given by proclamation from the Mayor's office, but under the Consent Agenda, a Resolution could be prepared by the County Attorney that is deemed to be non-controversial, and depending of the merit and importance of the occasion, a Commissioner could request a Resolution be prepared instead of a proclamation being given from the Mayor's office.

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- D. A Resolution for Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. Jan Baggary gave an overview of the services provided by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Services which is part of the College of Agriculture. They work with landscapers, homeowners for lawn service, 4-H and Youth service programs in schools. They also train Master Gardeners, who on a volunteer basis can assist homeowners with lawn problems. Child Care Provider classes are also given. These are just a few of the services offered by Cooperative Extension Service.

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- E. Resolution approving agreement with Davenport and Company, LLC for financial advisory services.

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- F. A Resolution approving an agreement for the management of ticket sales at the Macon City Auditorium and the Macon Coliseum between Ticket Master , LLC and Noble Interstate LLC as agent for Macon-Bibb County, D/B/A Macon Coliseum and Auditorium, and authorizing the Mayor to execute said agreement.

Mark Butcher, General Manager, stated the contract with Ticket Master expires this year. Under the new proposed contract, the County will receive an increase of 60% in Royalty Fees. Commissioner Lucas asked for a review of parking and ticket sales, and an overall review of the contract with Noble. Mayor Reichert suggested this was an item that could be placed on a future Work Session agenda. Commissioner Tillman had questions on where Ticket Master outlets were located and how the number of locations could be increased to better serve the community. Attorney Drake stated the contract had been changed from two five-year renewal terms to two one-year renewals after the initial five-year contract term. Mr. Butcher stated Publix is marketing all of the Coliseum shows and in the future, possibly Wal Mart. Some of the upcoming events at the Coliseum and Auditorium include Bill Cosby, Willie Nelson, "Macon Pops" which includes Grammy winning dancers, singers and arranger. There will possibly be pink ice for ice skating during Cherry Blossom and the upcoming Mary Kay Convention. There are currently 26 shows on schedule. The Conference Center is leased to Marriott and they retain all profits; whereas, the Coliseum and Auditorium are managed by Noble. Their profits are usually not enough to cover costs, and their deficits are paid from the General Fund.

On motion of Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- G. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an amendment to and restated Medical Dispensary Services Agreement with Macon Occupational Medicine, LLC.

Ben Hubbard provided an overview of the services provided by Macon Occupational Medicine and the associated cost to add the new County employees. The amended agreement will provide all drug testing, psychological exams, return to work exams, and non-emergency worker injuries. The present contract with the City will increase by \$123,000 to encompass all Macon-Bibb County employees and the Sheriff's Office. The new contract will end January 25, 2015.

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- H. Authorization for the Mayor to sign a Resolution and Condemnation Orders for Parcels 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12, and 13 on Level Acres Drive SW for the purpose of widening and construction of a public road.

Dave Fortson, County Engineer, stated Level Acres Drive was a dirt road not County maintained, and was unable to handle emergency vehicles. This has been an issue for years. The Engineering department was asked by the County Commission to come up with a plan to make this road accessible for emergency vehicles and with water lines for fire protection would be added at completions of the project. The attorneys for the project recommended condemnation to acquire all parcels necessitated by problems encountered in gaining clear title to all the remaining parcels. These will be "friendly condemnations" except for one parcel where the resident has a concern over the purchase price. Mayor Reichert stated the Condemnation process would allow all concerns to be addressed. Commissioner Lucas stated she was happy to support the condemnations as they would improve emergency protection for the areas residents.

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution and Condemnation Orders were approved for official adoption.

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

- I. A Resolution of the Macon-Bibb County Commission adopting an Official Seal of Macon-Bibb County.

Changes made in the original seal design identifies Ft. Hawkins' blockhouse and its founding year, the Latin term was changed to read in English, "Forward Together." Commissioner Tillman requested the original seal designer, Mark Strozier, be recognized for his contribution to the seal's design. Mayor Reichert stated Mr. Strozier should be recognized for having won the Seal design sponsored by the Transition Task Force and that it was used for the basis of the revised Seal.

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, and carried unanimously, the above stated Resolution was approved for official adoption.

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

- J. Early Retirement request from the District Attorney's Office - Sylvia Lindsey.

Bel Wall presented information and documents for signature for Sylvia Lindsey, who has 23 and a one-half years of service with Bibb County and will be retiring under the Bibb County Pension Plan. Until a new pension board is set up, all retirement requests will be coming to

the Commission for approval. Previously, County retirees were presented a watch and a Resolution at retirement. Commissioner Lucas expressed sentiments that employees needed to feel they were appreciated and recognition in some form needed to be given. Further discussion involved the various ways retirements could be commemorated.

Mayor Reichert stated this was a good time to go into when the Committees would meet and suggested retirements could be taken up by the Operations and Finance Committee which has Charles Coney as the staff contact. He suggested this Committee could begin planning how to recognize future retirees. Commissioner Bechtel would like to have copies of both the City and County policies related to retirement recognition programs.

All Committees will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning at 9:00 A.M. At the January 28th meeting, each committee will elect a chair and vice chair to facilitate their meetings. The Committees will meet in this order: Operations and Finance, Economic and Community Development, Public Safety, and Facilities and Engineering.

On motion of Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel, and carried unanimously, the early retirement request was approved for official adoption.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Reichert announced that the cut off for agenda items would be on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Reichert announced the Macon-Bibb County Commission will hold a Work Session on January 28, 2014 in the Small Conference Room at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 A.M.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission