

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

January 14, 2020

The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Valerie Wynn
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Bert Bivins
Commissioner Joe Allen

NEW MEDIA:

Tanya Modersitzki, WMGT
Tiffany Thompson, WGXA
Liz Jarvis, Center for Collaborative Journalism

OTHERS PRESENT:

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Joel Callins, Assistant County Attorney
Michael McNeill, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Chris Floore, Public Affairs
Janice Ross, Clerk of Commission
Sheriff David Davis, Bibb County Sheriff's Office
Spencer Hawkins, Director, EMA

GUESTS PRESENT

Chico Scott, Jr.
Wimberly Treadwell
Emily Hopkins, NewTown Macon
Gary Wheat, President and CEO, Visit Macon
Charles Dudley

Mayor Reichert requested Spencer Hawkins, Director of EMA,, to give an update on the weather and the deconstruction of the Tower.

Mr. Hawkins stated that Macon was fortunate to avoid any damaging weather during the past weekend. He continued that the EMA team was on alert but were not needed.

He continued that the Tower would be removed over the next three days with the crane being delivered on Tuesday, the take down of the tower on Wednesday and clean up on Thursday.

1. Approval of minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting

ACTION

On motion of Commission Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

2. Use of Rifles in Macon-Bibb County

- A. An Ordinance to amend Section 16-25 of the Code to prohibit the firing of rifles within 250 feet of a residence in Macon-Bibb County (Sponsored by Commissioner Joe Allen, Commissioner Elaine Lucas, Commissioner Virgil Watkins)

With no objections Item 9 was moved to Item 2. The Committee meeting was moved to the chambers to accommodate the number of citizens attending.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, the Ordinance was tabled to allow time for public hearings on the matter.

3. Election of the Mayor Pro Tem for 2020

Commissioner Bivins left the meeting at this time.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Wynn, Commissioner Wynn was nominated for Mayor Pro Tem.

Casting votes for Commissioner Wynn were Commissioner Wynn and Commissioner Jones.

On motion of Commission Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Watkins, Commissioner Al Tillman was nominated for Mayor Pro Tem.

Commissioner Tillman was elected Mayor Pro Tem by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Shepherd, Lucas, Jones, Schlesinger, Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Wynn casting the dissenting vote.

4. Committee on Committees

A. Selection of the third member.

Mayor Pro Tem Tillman selected Commissioner Lucas as the third member of the Committee on Committees and Mayor Reichert concurred.

5. One Time Safe Haven Period

A. An Ordinance to provide a One-Time Safe Haven Period for the late payment of Business License Fees (Sponsored by Commissioner Mallory Jones)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried 6 to one with Commissioners Shepherd, Wynn, Lucas, Watkins, Tillman, and Schlesinger casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Jones casting the dissenting vote, the Ordinance was tabled.

6. Downtown Signage

Wimberly Treadwell, Emily Hopkins and Gary Wheat addressed the need for new Signage in Downtown Macon. The presentation is on file in the Clerk's Office.

7. Central Georgia Railroad Locomotive

Information Only. Chico Scott and Charles Dudley presented information on painting the locomotive in Central City Park.

8. Claim Settlement

- A. A Resolution authorizing settlement in the total amount of \$22,500 for any and all claims, demands or damages, against Macon-Bibb County, Arising out of or connected in any way to Sonja H. Walker v City of Macon, Civil Action No 80096, State Court of Bibb County (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)
- B. A Resolution authorizing settlement in the total amount of \$8,000 for any and all claims, demands, or damages, against Macon-Bibb County, arising out of or connected in any way to Donald Boyer v Lekitte Robinson and Macon-Bibb County Board of Commissioners, Civil Action No 87580 State Court of Bibb County, State of Georgia (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the above claims were approved for settlement.

9. Blight Elimination Revolving Loan Fund

- A. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 6 of the Code by adding a new Article V for purposes of establishing a Blight Elimination Revolving Loan fund (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously the above Ordinance was approved.

10. Proposed Salary Increase

- A. An Ordinance amending the salary of select positions and ranks throughout Bibb County for the purpose of better aligning Macon-Bibb Counties current salaries with other employers in the market (Sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins)

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the item was tabled.

- B. An Ordinance amending the salaries of select Public Safety Positions and Ranks for the purpose of better aligning our current salaries with other Employers in the market (Sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins)

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the item was tabled.

11. Tabled Item

- A. A Resolution to request that the local legislative delegation introduce the necessary legislation during the 2020 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to limit the Tax-Exempt Status of certain hospital property not used for the purpose of directly providing exempt services.

On motion of Commissioner Allen, with no second, the item was not removed from the table.

12. Executive Session

- A. 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); 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); Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B);)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger the meeting went into Executive Session.

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the meeting returned to regular session.

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