

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
January 6, 2015 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on January 6, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. in the Large Conference Room at Government Center.

Commission Members Present

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

Commissioner Mallory Jones, III
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Staff Present

Judd Drake – County Attorney
Crystal Jones – Senior Assistant County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Assistant County Attorney
Opie Bowen – Assistant County Attorney
Charles Coney – Assistant County Manager (Operations)
Steve Layson – Assistant County Manager (Infrastructure)
Chris Floore – Assistant to County Manager – Public Affairs
Jean S. Howard – Interim Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training and Event Coordinator
Sam Henderson – Executive Assistant to the Mayor

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Anita Oh – 13 WMAZ
Malcolm Johnson – 41 WMGT
Alexa Rodriquez – 41 WMGT

Visitors Present

Brittany Childs – Industrial Authority
Clay Murphey – SPLOST Program Manager

The Pre-Commission Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert.

The Mayor stated the meeting was being convened as a Committee of the Whole for the primary purpose of reviewing tonight's Regular Commission Meeting's Agenda and to take action on one New Business item, the renewal of Congressman Sanford Bishop's lease at the Willie C. Hill Annex for another two year term. He also stated there would be an Executive

Session for the discussion or voting on entering a contract for the potential sale or lease of property.

Mayor Reichert reviewed the Agenda items for tonight's Regular Commission Meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

PRAYER

- A. Reverend Doctor James Bumpus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

GCAP students, Grace Nguyen (Central High School) and Malik Thomas (Howard High School)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Pre-Commission Meeting on December 16, 2014
- B. Regular Commission Meeting on December 16, 2014

INVITED GUESTS

GCAP students

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mayor Reichert reminded Committee Chairs to give their Committee reports.

- A. Operations and Finance Committee
- B. Economic and Community Development Committee
- C. Public Safety Committee
- D. Facilities and Engineering Committee – No Report

CONSENT AGENDA

New Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the following:

- A. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Zebulon 6451 Inc., d/b/a Sunoco Food Mart located at 6451 Zebulon Road
- B. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Macon TMP (Hartley Bridge Chevron) located at 5631 Houston Road

- C. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Growler Spot located at 3841 Northside Drive

OLD BUSINESS

- A. An Ordinance to appropriate \$6,000 (\$1,000 per month for 6 months) to supplement various operational needs of Fort Hawkins and \$1,000 in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for a total sum of \$7,000
- B. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement in the amount of \$79,923.50 with Northeast Concrete Co. Inc for the paving of Liberty Church Road, the paving of Sofkee Road, and for the installation of sidewalks near Graham Road
- C. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Project Change Request between Macon-Bibb County and Mainline Information Systems, Inc for ninety nine thousand dollars and No/100 (\$99,000.00) for additional consulting and support services to the Information Technology Department
- D. Ordinance amending Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances to make distance requirements for the sale of wine and malt beverages near churches consistent with State Law
- E. Approval of Retirements: Carl Hart – Law Enforcement (36 yrs. 2 mos.) Elizabeth Jordan – General (30 yrs. 11 mos.) Ronnie Lord – General (12 yrs. 11 mos.) Jane Reeves – Magistrate Court (25 yrs. 11 mos.) Charles Sanfarrare – Law Enforcement (20 yrs. 8 mos.) William Simpson – Information Technology (39 yrs. 5 mos.) Franklin Thomas – Law Enforcement (26 yrs. 5 mos.) John Daniel Thompson - General (13 yrs. 7 mos.) Shelia Thurmond – Clerk’s Office (32 yrs. 5 mos.) Belgica Wall (11 yrs. 11 mos.)
- F. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Award in the amount of \$24,000 with a Federal share of \$18,000 and Local (In-Kind) match of \$6,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- G. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the State of Georgia Accountability Courts Funding Supplemental Grant Award in the amount of \$18,811 with a State share of \$16,930 and Local (In-Kind) match of \$1,881 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- H. Resolution to re-appoint Commissioner Gary Bechtel and Gene Dunwody, Sr. to the Macon Economic Development Commission
- I. Resolution to re-appoint Violet Poe to the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority
- J. Resolution to appoint Tom Sands and to re-appoint Gene Dunwody, Jr. to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority
- K. Resolution to require the named licensee of the Wings Café at 2822 Bloomfield Drive to appear before the Macon-Bibb County Municipal Court for violation of SEC. 4-53 of the

Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County; to determine whether to suspend or revoke any alcoholic beverage license issued to said location

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas stated she would be voting NO on the Resolution and recommended further study be done on addressing violence as well as safety and security concerns with club owners and the public overall in Macon-Bibb County before taking any action regarding Wings Café. She also stated possible litigation could result from any action taken against the Wings Café at this time.

- L. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a twenty four month lease agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Congressman Sanford Bishop for 1800 square feet of office space located on the third floor of the Government Center Annex for \$1,000/month for the purpose of general office use (Pending approval)

NEW BUSINESS – PRE-COMMISSION AGENDA

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a twenty four month lease agreement between Macon-Bibb County and Congressman Sanford Bishop for 1800 square feet of office space located on the third floor of the Government Center Annex for \$1,000/month for the purpose of general office use.

Mayor Reichert stated he wanted to be honest and candid stating he had signed the lease agreement and put in the mail as the signed lease was needed before the end of the calendar year. He stated the rate remained the same as the previous lease. He asked the Commission to ratify his action.

ACTION:

On motion of Commissioner Mallory Jones, III, seconded by Commissioner Scotty Shepherd, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved for consideration at tonight's Regular Commission meeting as item L under Old Business.

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

Commissioner Al Tillman was absent during the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Bivins announced a Taste of Macon-Bibb County Follies event to be held on January 30th at the Douglass Theatre at 6:30 P.M. to raise funds for the GCAPS student program, sponsored by the Macon-Bibb County Government. Commissioner Bivins, Charles Coney, and Kevin Barrere work with the students in the program. The Mayor and several Commissioners will be participants on the program. He asked Commissioners to take ten tickets to sell and/or purchase for the event.

Mayor Reichert stated he would call on Commissioner Bivins for a Personal Point of Privilege at the end of tonight's Regular Commission Meeting to make another announcement for the benefit of those in the audience.

Mayor Reichert announced a groundbreaking ceremony to be held on Thursday, January 8th at 2:00P.M. for the Mercer University pedestrian bridge, and the 385 bed student housing project in conjunction with Mercer Loft's Phase 5.

Mayor Reichert also announced changes to the Commission Chamber being done by the Building Services Department which includes a media desk along with other significant enhancements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing or voting on: Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E).

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously, the Commissioners went into Executive Session at 5:27 P.M.

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.

Approval of October 7, 2014 Executive Session Minutes:

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the October 7, 2014 Executive Session Minutes were approved.

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.

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously, the meeting was re-opened at 5:43 P.M.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Jean S. Howard
Interim Clerk of Commission