

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

November 9, 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 Valerie Wynn
Commissioner Paul Bronson
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Raymond Wilder
Commissioner Bill Howell
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jim Crisp, Nominee for Urban Development
Kay Beliveau, Nominee for SPLOST Advisory
Sanjeev Venkat, Nominee for SPLOST Advisory
Blake Sharpton,

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
Edna Ruiz, Communications
Olivia Walter, Communications

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole from October 26, 2021

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the minutes of October 26, 2021 was approved.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. APPOINTMENTS TO AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. A Resolution appointing Jim Crisp to the Urban Development Authority

Mayor Pro Tem asked to say a few words about Jim Crisp. He stated that he had known Jim for a long time. "Jim served as the Artistic Director of Theatre Macon for 32 years, directed 300 shows and touched the life of over 1,000 actors. At age 36 in 1987 he was probably considered crazy for moving to downtown and opening Theatre Macon. I asked him what it was like when he moved and he said there was him, the Krystal, Green Jacket and Woolworth. He spent a less than a decade in the first location and moved to his current location in 1995. When the Mayor told me he was thinking about appointing Jim, Jim is not a developer and does not run a construction company but he knows the beating heart of downtown and what it takes to develop downtown intentionally and fairly to have a livable walkabout area that we can all use because that is what he has done it before anyone in this room was doing it. He will bring to the Urban Development Authority, is a sense of community, intention and a vast compassion and to never give up on a diverse coalition of opinion that will make our community better. I know this because of what he has done in my life personally as one of the thousand of actors who went through the

program and he is someone that I admire personally. I think this is one of the most important appointments.”

Commissioner Lucas stated that “she can only second the Mayor Pro Tem had said. I met Jim a long time ago and he is one of those people who you immediately gravitate to. I remember some years ago that he deliberately made sue that there were diverse offerings in the theatre and I thought then that this was someone who really cares. He notices what this community looks like and those were overwhelmingly successful as I recall. It is a pleasure to second that motion and will be a great addition to the Urban Development Authority.”

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the appointment of Jim Crisp to the Urban Development Authority was approved.

- B. A Resolution appointing Kay Beliveau to the SPLOST Advisory Committee

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the appointment of Kay Beliveau to the SPLOST Advisory Committee was approved.

- C. A Resolution to appoint Sanjeev Venkat to the SPLOST Advisory Committee

On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the appointment of Sanjeev Venkat to the SPLOST Advisory Committee was approved.

- D. A Resolution to re-appoint Tom Ellington to the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the reappointment of Tom Ellington to the Land Bank Authority was approved.

4. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION REQUEST (*This item was considered first at the meeting*)

- A. Request from Erica Woodford regarding Board of Equalization

Erica Woodford address the Commissioner regarding the need to increase the pay for the Board of Equalization. She stated she had been working with the Board for almost ten years and during this time that had not had a raise in pay. She requested that the pay be raised to \$90 a day. Mayor Miller stated the County Attorney would draw up a resolution and it would be considered at the next committee meeting.

5. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSES

- A. New Alcohol Beverage License for Mt. Pleasant Store located at 4977 Mt. Pleasant Church Road, Macon, GA

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wilder and carried unanimously, the New Alcohol Beverage License for M. Pleasant Store was approved.

- B. New Alcohol Beverage License for Tash Inc. d.b.a. Exxon Food Mart located at 4290 Dellwood Drive, Suite B. Macon, GA

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the New Alcohol Beverage License for Tash was approved.

- C. New Alcohol Beverage License for MV Nail Spa River Crossing LLC located at 5080 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the New Alcohol Beverage License for MV Nail Spa was approved.

- D. New Alcohol Beverage License for Kitchen Pride Food Store located at 3101 Columbus Road, Macon, GA

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, to reject the application and refund any monies they have paid was approved.

- E. New Alcohol Beverage License for Debbie's Food Mart Located at 1248 Jeffersonville Road, Macon, GA

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the item was removed from the table.

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the New Alcohol Beverage License for Debbie's Food Mart was approved.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS

- A. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a FY21 Emergency Management Performance Grant and ARPA Grant from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, in the amount of \$50,000 with a \$50,000 Local match provided by in-kind services, to be used by the EMA to provide for equipment purchases and support staff salaries and benefits

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the above grant was approved.

- B. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Grant from the criminal Justice Coordinating Council Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, in the amount of \$40,000 with no local match, to be used by the Bibb County Sheriff's Office to fund Conference expenses, and to purchase equipment for the Crime Lab and Operating Supplies (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Howell and carried unanimously, the grant for Safe Neighborhood Program was approved.

7. CONTRACTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OR RENEWAL

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Medical Dispensary Service Agreement with Macon Occupational Medicine, LLC in an annual amount of \$114,000 with annual 3% price increases to begin in 2022, to be paid from the General Fund, Human Resources, Contract Labor Contractual Services line item (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried by a vote of eight to one with Commissioners Wynn, Bronson, Lucas, Jones, Clark, Howell, Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioner Wilder casting the dissenting

vote, the Agreement with Macon Occupational Medicine is amended to change the duration of the contract to five years based on approval of Occupational Medicine was approved.

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Agreement with Macon Occupational Medicine was approved as amended.

- B. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a construction agreement with F.H. Paschen, S.N. Neilsen & Associates of the Brookdale Resource Center in the amount of \$357,565 to be paid from the Economic and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant, ECD Brookdale Shelter - Machinery and Equipment Line Item (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark the agreement with F. H. Paschen, S. N. Neilsen was approved.

- C. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for construction with Sam Hall & Sons, Inc for the construction of a solid waste disposal convenience center in the amount of \$276,187.50 to be paid with 2018 SPLOST Funds for the Walker Road Landfill Closure

On motion of Mayor Bronson, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Contract with Sam Hall & Sons, for construction of a solid waste disposal convenience center was approved.

- D. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a design-build contract with Warren & Associates, Inc for the design and construction of renovations to the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 payable from American Rescue Plan Act Funds (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the design build contract with Warren & Associates for renovation to the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank was approved.

- E. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract addendum with Corus Group, LLC d.b.a. Corus 360, in the total amount of \$324,000 for cloud hosting and disaster recovery services for the AS/400 and Mainframe computer systems, to be paid from the Information Technology Budget - Legacy Systems - Repairs and Maintenance - Software License and Maintenance Line Item (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried unanimously, the contract addendum with Corus Group was approved.

- F. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a change order to contract C-18-0091 with GovernmentJobs.com, Inc. d.b.a. NeoGov in the amount of \$27,032.09 for a subscription to new hire onboarding software to be added to the Human Resources Software Suite, to be paid from the Human Resources Budget, Repairs and Maintenance, Software Licenses & Maintenance Line Item (sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Mayo Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the change order to GovernmentJobs.com was approved.

- G. A Resolution requesting and authorizing the Urban Development Authority to issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$40,000,000 and to be reimbursed by the proceeds of said revenue bonds for certain expenses relating to capital expenditures of the county; approving the form of an intergovernmental agency agreement and approving the engagement of certain professionals (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

This item was considered after Executive Session.

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Commissioner Bronson and carried unanimously, the Urban Development Authority was authorized to issue revenue bonds in the amount of \$40,000,000

8. CHANGE TO THE CODE (*This item was considered as the second item on the agenda*)

- A. An Ordinance to enact a new article within Chapter 26 of the Code to be known as "Article XIII - Macon-Bibb County Property Assessed Clean Energy ("Pace) Loan Program"; to establish a property assessed clean energy loan program; to authorize a Tri-Party Agreement with the Tax Commissioner and Urban Development Authority for the purpose of administering such program (Sponsored by Mayor Lester M. Miller)

On motion of Commissioner Howell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to enact a new article within Chapter 26 was approved.

9. ADD TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Watkins asked to have an item added to the agenda regarding help for homeless people such as hiring street level workers to complete surveys.

Mayor Miller stated that he thought this is what the group of people who were assembled yesterday had discussed and the agreement was to meet next week and move forward with this but it could be added if he gets a second. Commissioner Watkins stated that he would like to move forward if he could get a second.

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and passed by a motion of five to four with Commissioners Bronson, Lucas, Clark, Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioners Wynn, Jones, Wilder and Howell casting the dissenting votes the item was added to the agenda.

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

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.

On motion of Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the meeting came out of Executive Session.

Item 7.G was considered after Executive Session.

Mayor Pro Tem Clark stated that he wanted to share his condolences to the family and friends of late Senator Max Cleland who served as Georgia's Senator for four years and then was appointed to a 14 year term as Georgia's Secretary of State. Mayor Pro Tem read a short passage from the Atlanta Journal Constitution Obituary. Senator Cleland was quoted as saying ""My body, my soul, my spirit, and my belief in life itself was stolen from me by the disaster of the Vietnam War. I found solace in attempting to 'turn my pain into somebody else's gain' by immersing myself in politics and public service.'"

Commissioner Lucas discussed the redistricting that is taking place. She stated that she believes the maps are being reviewed by the State at the current time.

Mayor Miller stated that the Macon-Bibb County maps have not been redrawn only the State maps have been redrawn. Mayor Miller stated that he did not know if the process had begun but he would follow up. Mayor stated that he would discuss the redistricting with the local delegation.

Commissioner Tillman stated that he had been talking to Laura Mathis at the Regional Commission regarding redistricting.

Mayor Miller wanted to thank everyone who participated in the Veteran Day events. He stated he had never seen such enthusiasm from the citizens. He is looking forward to building on this event in the next years.

Mayor Miller stated that last Tuesday not only did the Atlanta Braves win the World Series but Macon-Bibb County won by passing the OLOST by 80.5%. The OLOST passed in every single precinct. He continued that it is something we can be proud of. He thanked the legislative delegation for their support in giving the citizens an opportunity to vote on the legislation. He continued by thanking all the Commissioners for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted:

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