

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
November 4, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
Government Center
(Large Conference Room)**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on November 4, 2014 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 Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Commissioner Al Tillman

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Ed DeFore was absent due to attending a Macon Water Authority retreat in Atlanta, Georgia. Commissioner DeFore is a Macon-Bibb County Commission representative serving on the Macon Water Authority.

Staff Present

Dale Walker- County Manager
Judd Drake –County Attorney
Reggie McClendon – Assistant County Attorney
Shelia Thurmond – Clerk of Commission
Charles Coney – Assistant County Manager (Operations)
Steve Layson – Assistant County Manager (Infrastructure)
Jean S. Howard – Assistant Clerk of Commission
Janice Ross – Training & Events Coordinator
Sam Henderson, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

News Media Present

Jim Gaines – The Telegraph
Kristen Swilley – 13 WMAZ
Ron Wildman – 58 WPGA

Visitors Present

Brittney Childs – Industrial Authority
Bibb County Retirees
Josh Rogers – Newtown Macon
Hal Baskin – Newtown Macon
Bud Fletcher

Bob Fickling

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

The Mayor asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an item of New Business for the Committee of the Whole, that is time sensitive, which is a Resolution approving a request by Urban Development Concepts, LLC to draw approximately \$150,000.00 in Bond Funds from the \$5,000,000.00 Development Authority of Bibb County Revenue Bonds (Newtown Macon/Urban Development Concepts Project) Series 2012 for acquisition and closing costs of the former Goodwill Store property located 555 Poplar Street.

Discussion: Commissioners Lucas and Jones expressed concern about the number of last-minute items coming to the Commission for approval. County Attorney Drake stated this was a request that needed action by the Commission in ten days. He stated he received the request on November 3rd and that it had been received by the Finance Director on October 23rd. He further stated that they were within the ten days, but action was needed today as the funding would automatically go into effect as agreed upon in the Management Agreement with the former Bibb County Commission. Mayor Reichert stated the request for the \$150,000 would expend the remainder of the funds left on the bond.

ACTION:

- ***On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel, and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to add the Resolution.***
- ***Unanimous approval by Commissioners Bert Bivins, III, Gary Bechtel, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, III, Scotty Shepherd, and Al Tillman. Commissioner Ed DeFore was absent; Commissioner Watkins, Jr. was absent during the vote.***

Mayor Reichert reviewed the Old Business agenda items for tonight's Regular Commission Meeting and stated New Business items would be referred to Committee for action.

AGENDA ITEMS

PRAYER

- A. Reverend Paul Little, II – Mt. Zion Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

GCAP Students, Faith Engle and Deep Patel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Special Called Meeting on October 21, 2014 (Resolution adopting the Master Statement of Investment Policy)
- B. Pre-Commission Meeting on October 21, 2014
- C. Regular Commission Meeting on October 21, 2014

INVITED GUESTS

- A. Sister City Student Exchange with Kurobe, Japan - ten students to receive lapel pins and to be given Honorary Citizen certificates
- B. Knight Cities Challenge Grant – Beverly Blake
- C. Dr. James Bumpus, Director of Small Business Affairs (Reverse Vendors Fair)
- D. Rev. Sharon Horner (invited by Commissioner Lucas) of Gray Chapel AME Church

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Reichert asked Committee Chairs to give their Committee reports.

- A. Operations and Finance Committee – Chairman Bechtel
- B. Economic and Community Development Committee – Chairman Schlesinger
- C. Public Safety Committee - Chairman Shepherd
- D. Facilities and Engineering Committee – Chairman Tillman

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Ocmulgee Traders Macon, LLC located at 455 Poplar Street
- B. New Alcoholic Beverage License for Get Your Fix, LLC d/b/a Doughboy Pizza located at 518 Cherry Street
- C. New Alcoholic Beverage License for C & F Convenient Food Store located at 2475 Houston Avenue
- D. New Alcoholic Beverage License for City Lights located at 1715 Shurling Drive

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution requesting that the Facilities Management Department and the Macon-Bibb County Traffic Engineering Department review street lighting and safety precautions currently in place for intersections where pedestrian accidents have occurred and other high volume traffic areas and institute recommended changes
- B. Resolution amending the Department of Business and Development Services Administrative Procedures for the enforcement of the Georgia State Minimum Standards Codes
- C. Resolution to approve a Plan of Finance (1) issuing certain Tax Allocation District Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, (2) Restructuring and Refinancing certain outstanding obligations of Macon-Bibb County incurred either directly by the City of Macon or Bibb

County or through the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority or the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, (3) Issuing Obligations to finance certain Capital Outlay Projects of Macon-Bibb County; to authorize certain officers and agents of Macon-Bibb County to retain professional services and take certain actions consistent with the purposes and intents of this Resolution

- D. Resolution to authorize the acquisition and expenditure of bonds funded pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 for the purpose of vacant lot maintenance, blighted housing demolition, and other infrastructure beautification in Macon-Bibb County in the expanded areas of the 2014 Urban Redevelopment Plan

Discussion: Commissioner Watkins, the Resolution's sponsor, requested this item be removed from the agenda to eliminate confusion and redundancy as the funding contained therein is included in Item C.

- E. Resolution to erect a Memorial Sign in honor of Rev. Jacob Parker to be located on Elm Street near Ebenezer Baptist Church
- F. Resolution authorizing the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency to submit an application to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for a 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant Response and Recovery Award
- G. Resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation introduce Legislation during the 2015 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to provide for a Non-Binding Advisory Referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Macon-Bibb County Commission should levy a dedicated Mil of Ad Valorem Tax for the purpose of realizing additional revenue for the support of Cultural Art Services and Museum Facilities, Economic Development, Indigent Health Care, and Paratransit Services
- H. Resolution confirming Mayor Robert Reichert's appointment of Louie Hargrove, Rick Hutto, Clifford Rushin, and Walter Timley to the Fire Civil Service Board
- I. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to transfer a portion of the parcel of property at 485 Coliseum Drive to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority to be marketed and sold for the benefit of the County
- J. Resolution approving changes in Macon-Bibb County's Group Health Plan, including design, eligibility and premium contribution changes
- K. Resolution to establish and provide a summary of the Health and Life Insurance Retirement Benefits currently available to former Bibb County employees, former City of Macon employees, and Macon-Bibb County employees hired on or after January 1, 2014, and to adopt an Amendment to the Macon-Bibb County Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Agreement providing that these retirement benefits may be funded by Macon-Bibb County under the Trust Agreement
- L. Ordinance granting Atlanta Gas Light Company, a Georgia Corporation, hereinafter designated as "Company" its successors and assigns, the Right and Franchise to use and occupy the Streets, Avenues, Roads, Public Highways, Alleys, Lanes, Ways, Parks, and other public places of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia, for constructing, maintaining, renewing, repairing, and operating a Gas Works and Gas Distribution System, and other

necessary means for manufacturing, transmitting, distributing and selling of manufactured, natural or commingled gas within and through Macon-Bibb County, Georgia; and fixing the terms and conditions of such grant; to provide provisions governing the franchise fee calculation

- M. Ordinance to appropriate \$12,000 from Fund Balance to Non-Departmental to cover employee parking contract
- N. Ordinance to appropriate \$17,000 from Fund Balance to the Economic and Community Development Office to cover Main Street expenses including Christmas Lights
- O. Ordinance to appropriate \$23,000 in the Commissary Fund to operating equipment general
- P. Ordinance to appropriate \$60,000 from Fund Balance to the Economic and Community Development Office from a repayment that should be placed in ECD fund
- Q. Ordinance to appropriate \$2,264,489 from SPLOST Fund to FY 15 SPLOST Budget
- R. Resolution approving a request by Urban Development Concepts, LLC to draw approximately \$150,000.00 in Bond Funds from the \$5,000,000.00 Development Authority of Bibb County Revenue Bonds (NewTown Macon/Urban Development Concepts Project) Series 2012 for acquisition and closing costs of the former Goodwill Store property located 555 Poplar Street pending approval of the Committee of the Whole.

The Mayor stated all New Business items on the Regular Commission Agenda would be referred to Committee for action.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution approving a request by Urban Development Concepts, LLC to draw approximately \$150,000.00 in Bond Funds from the \$5,000,000.00 Development Authority of Bibb County Revenue Bonds (Newtown Macon/Urban Development Concepts Project) Series 2012 for acquisition and closing costs of the former Goodwill Store property located 555 Poplar Street

Discussion: Josh Rogers, President of Newtown Macon, gave an overview of the project and the need to purchase the building prior to it being auctioned in order to control its future use. He stated the building would be purchased using 100% bond funds until a developer could be secured and then it would be a 50% bank loan, ten percent (10%) owner equity, and 40% bond funds.

ACTION:

- ***On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger, and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved and will be considered for ratification at tonight's Regular Commission meeting as item R under Old Business.***

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

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Lucas asked if there was a list of items to be covered during the upcoming Local Legislative Delegation Meeting on November 18th other than the proposed Referendum on tonight's agenda.

Mayor Reichert stated he planned to speak on transportation and infrastructure funding; however, he could put an agenda together and distribute to each Commissioner for any additional items of interest.

It was agreed that all Commissioners could submit items they wanted to be discussed with the Legislative Delegation to the Mayor and/or Mayor Pro Tem for consideration at their Monday morning meeting prior to the Legislative Delegation meeting. The Mayor also encouraged all Commissioners to attend the meeting which will be at 10:00 AM at the Regional Commission on November 18, 2014.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of Commission