

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
September 15, 2020
Government Center**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon - Bibb County Commission was held September 15, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. via Video Conference in the Commission Chambers at the Government Center.

Commission Members On Video-conference:

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Valerie Wynn

Mayor-Elect Lester Miller
Commissioner Elect Bill Howell
Commissioner Elect Raymond Wilder

Guests

Mike Kaplan, Board of Elections
Wayne Kendall, Attorney for Jaya Food and Gas

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Scotty Shepherd

Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman
Commissioner Joe Allen
Commissioner Bert Bivins, III
Commissioner Mallory Jones, III

Staff Present

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Michael McNeill – Assistant County Attorney
Keith Moffett – County Manager
Janice Ross – Clerk of the Commission
Chris Floore - Public Affairs
Julie Moore, - Assistant to the County Manager
Joel Callins – Assistant County Attorney
Michelle Harris – Assistant County Attorney
Spencer Hawkins – Director, EMA

1. Call to Order

Mayor Reichert called the meeting to order. He read the following statement regarding the Pre-Commission and Commission meeting:

Out Of An Abundance Of Caution, The Macon-Bibb County Commission Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 15, 2020 Will Be Available To The Macon-Bibb County Commissioners By Video Conference Only For 5:00 P.M. Pre-Commission Meeting And 6:00 P.M. Commission Meeting.

The Commission Chambers Will Be Closed To The Public And Press In Order To Slow The Spread Of Covid-19. Therefore, The Public And Press May Only Access The Meeting Simultaneously Online At www.maconbibb.us Or www.facebook.com/maconbibbcounty.

2. Announcements

- A. Mayor Reichert reviewed the upcoming events for Commission members and other to attend.
- B. Julie Moore, Budget and Strategic Planning Office, gave an update on the requirement to submit items for CARES Funding.
- C. Michael McNeill stated that the Governor had issued two new Executive Orders. Macon-Bibb County continues to be able to hold meetings via video conference.

- D. Spencer Hawkins, Director of EMA, gave an update on the COVID-19 numbers which have decreased in the last four to five days and an update on Tropical Storm Sally

3. Review of the Agenda for tonight's Commission meeting

Additions to the Agenda:

- *Appropriating funds to upgrade Central Georgia Railroad Crossing.*

Mayor Reichert stated that Item Q on the agenda regarding the DBE for the downtown airport.

Commissioner Lucas asked that Item F on the regular agenda new items be moved forward to the Pre-Commission for action.

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the Resolution in support of the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections identifying new Satellite Voting Locations, adding new absentee ballot drop box locations and approving early and advance voting on Sunday, October 25th for the November 3, 2020 was added to the agenda.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Denial of New Alcohol Beverage License for Jaya Food and Gas, Inc located at 1803 Pio Nono Avenue, Macon, GA 31206

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the denial of the New Alcohol Beverage License for Jaya Food and Gas was tabled.

5. New Business

- A. Resolution requesting the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Local Legislative Delegation to take action to ensure the continued operation of the Macon Medical Examiner's Office; authorizing the Administration to send a letter regarding the same; (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commission Lucas and carried by a vote of seven to one with Commissioners Valerie Wynn, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Bert Bivins, Mallory Jones, Joe Allen, and Virgil Watkins casting the affirmative votes and Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman casting the dissenting vote the Resolution requesting the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Local Legislative Delegation to take action to ensure the continued operation of the Macon Medical Examiner's Office was approved.

- B. COMMITTEE AMENDMENT – An Ordinance to authorize a supplemental budget appropriation from Fund Balance to the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections in the amount of \$427,251 in order to provide for various costs relating to the conduct of the 2020 General Election (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A B. Reichert)

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried seven to one with one with Commissioners Valerie Wynn, Larry Schlesinger, Elaine Lucas, Mallory Jones, Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman, and Virgil Watkins casting the affirmative votes and Joe Allen casting the dissenting vote the Ordinance for a supplemental budget appropriation for the Board of Elections was approved.

- C. COMMITTEE AMENDMENT - An Ordinance to temporarily allow for the expanded use of County Rights of Way for the sale of Goods (Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman)

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Lucas the Committee Amendment was not approved by a vote of five to three with Commissioners Lucas, Bivins, Allen, Watkins and Tillman casting the affirmative votes and Commissioners Wynn, Jones and Schlesinger casting the dissenting votes. The original ordinance will now appear on the Regular Commission agenda without the Amendment.

- D. COMMITTEE AMENDMENT - A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract between Macon-Bibb County and Warren Associates, Inc in the amount of \$509,500 for Phase III of the Freedom Park Renovation to be paid by 2018 SPLOST Revenues - Parks and Recreation - Freedom Park Line Item (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

On motion of Commissioner Wynn, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the contract with Warren Associate in the amount of \$509,500 for Phase III of Freedom Park Renovation was approved.

- E. COMMITTEE AMENDMENT - A Resolution authorizing the Macon Water Authority to spend up to \$175,000 from the Landfill Closure / Levee Maintenance Fund for the purpose of improving the Georgia Central Railroad Grade Crossing on Lower Poplar Street so as to provide heavy equipment access for the repair and maintenance of the levee (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the Committee Amendment authorizing the Macon Water Authority to spend up to \$175,000 from the Landfill Closure / Levee Maintenance Fund for the improvement of the Georgia Central Railroad Grade Crossing.

6. 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); Entering a contract for the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(D);

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Pre-Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Commission