

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

August 22, 2017

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Robert Reichert
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Joe Allen
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Al Tillman
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Gary Bechtel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Judd Drake, County Attorney
Crystal Jones, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Jansen Head, Assistant County Attorney
Julie Moore, Co-Interim County Manager
Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager
Janice Ross, Clerk of the Commission
Robert Walker, Director, Recreation Department
Christy Iullicci, Director of Finance
Ben Hubbard, Director of Human Resources
Kendall Countryman, Human Resources
Chauncey Wilmore, Procurement
Alex Morrison, Urban Development Authority

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

NEWS MEDIA:

Stanley Dunlap, The Telegraph
Mary Grace Shaw, 13WMAZ

VISITORS:

Virgil Adams, Adams, Jordan and Herrington
Christy Curreli, Chambliss Higdon Richardson Katz & Griggs
Jimmy Hinson, BB&T
Chris Leffin, Blue Cross / Blue Shield

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

1. Approval of minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting

ACTION

On motion of Commission Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 8, 2017 meeting were approved.

2. Executive Session

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the Committee went into Executive Session for 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);

3. Poplar Street Commons

Mayor Reichert reviewed the plans for Poplar Street Commons. The Commission was in consensus that any discussion regarding Poplar Street Commons would remain in the Committee of the Whole. A work session will be scheduled with HGOR to review the plans in detail.

4. Motion to add item to the agenda

ACTION

On motion of Commission Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, the following item was added to the agenda:

5. Report from Blue Cross / Blue Shield

Discussion

Jimmy Hinson reported on the cost of insurance related to 2017 vs 2016 and 2015. The paid claims for the first six months of each year, the plan is experiencing an increase in overall cost on both the Medical and Pharmacy program. In 2017 the cost is \$7,950,454; in 2016 the cost was \$6,028,328 and 2015 the cost was \$6,629,306. The Per Member Per Month cost for 2017 was \$339.23 for 2016 was \$266.10 and for 2015 the cost was \$295.74. The same is true for Pharmacy costs. In 2017 the cost was \$2,994,327 with the PMPM of \$127.44 while in 2016 the cost was \$2,409,477 with the PMPM being \$106.77 and in 2015 the cost was \$2,562,790 with the PMPM running \$113.33.

The service setting is where the vast majority of the cost drivers reside. The use of the Emergency Room drives the cost up. In 2017 there were 560 visits to the Emergency Room while in 2016 there were 481 and 2015 showed 439 visits to the Emergency Room. Mr. Hinson reported that while looking at MBC ER details, there are numerous members that visit the ER multiple times through the year. This points to two potential scenarios one of which is that they have no primary care physician or that they have an uncontrolled chronic condition.

Mr. Hinson and Mr. Chris Leffin, Blue Cross / Blue Shield, recommended several actions to lower the cost of health care to MBC.

- *Recommendation One:*
 - o *Increasing the emergency co-pay from \$150 on the HMO plan to \$300 per visit and increase the co-pay on the POST Plan from \$200 to \$400 in the emergency room.*
 - o *Reduce the co-pay on urgent care from the current \$50 down to \$35 for HMO plan and down from \$75 to \$50 for the POS Plan.*
- *Recommendation Two*
 - o *Reducing the co-pay for the LiveHealth Online service to \$0.00*
- *Recommendation Three*
 - o *Implementing Right Drug, right channel which means the drug will be charged to the correct side of the plan, either medical or pharmacy depending on its cost, delivery system and how it is prescribed and setting it is administered.*
 - o *Specialty Split Fill program allows the specialty medication to be filled the first time for half the prescription or split filled so the patient can then determine if the side effects are too much or a modification of the medication needs to be changed.*
- *Recommendation Four*
 - o *Add a fourth tier co-pay for specialty drugs. This would only be for the covered members using these types of drugs. The recommendation is a flat \$200 co-pay for specialty drugs.*

It was the consensus of the Commission that they required more time to consider the recommendations. The Commission also was in consensus that the discussion of the Insurance options would remain in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice S. Ross
Clerk of the Commission