

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

August 11, 2020

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
Commissioner Valerie Wynn
Commissioner Virgil Watkins
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Bert Bivins
Commissioner Joe Allen
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Mayor Pro Tem Al Tillman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney
Keith Moffett, County Manager
Michael McNeill, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Michelle Harris, Assistant County Attorney
Joel Callins, Assistant County Attorney
Chris Floore, Public Affairs
Janice Ross, Clerk of Commission
Rachel Gambill, Public Affairs
Sara Henton, Information Technology
Spencer Hawkins, Director, EMA
Alex Morrison, Urban Development Authority

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

VISITORS PRESENT:

Tony Alexion
Elizabeth Hall, James Bates Brannan Groover
Terry Taylor, Attorney, Benefits Law Group

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1. Approval of minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting

ACTION

On motion of Commission Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Funding for Cotton Avenue Plaza, First Street and Rosa Parks Square:

- A. An Ordinance to approve and authorize the re-appropriation of up to \$200,000 from 2018 SPLOST Revenues - CY 2019 Roads and Bridges - Central City Commons Line Item, to provide funding for planned improvements to Cotton Avenue Plaza, First Street, and Rosa Parks Square (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried five to four with Commissioners Tillman, Bivins, Lucas, Schlesinger and Watkins casting the affirmative votes and Commissioners Allen, Jones, Shepherd and Wynn casting the dissenting votes, the Ordinance to appropriate \$200,000 to improve Cotton Avenue Plaza, First Street and Rosa Parks Square was approved.

3. Minotaur Group

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement with the Minotaur Group, LLC for the development of a pandemic hurricane response plan

and revised pandemic response plan, in the amount of \$39,324.00 payable from Cares Act Funding, Contractual Services Line Item (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the Resolution to execute a Professional Service Agreement with Minotaur was approved.

4. Train Memorial Recreation Center

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a construction contract with Piedmont Construction Group, Inc in the amount of \$888,218.76 for Phase One of the Historic Robert S. Train Memorial Recreation Center Restoration and Redevelopment Project to be paid from 2018 SPLOST Blight Funds (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A B. Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Tillman and carried six to three with Commissioners Tillman, Bivins, Allen, Lucas, Watkins and Wynn casting the affirmative votes and Commissioners Schlesinger, Jones and Shepherd casting the dissenting votes the Resolution was tabled.

5. Sumter County Hospital Bonds

- A. A Resolution authorizing the Americus and Sumter County Hospital Authority to issue bonds to refinance facilities located in Macon-Bibb County (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B Reichert)

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Resolution was approved.

6. Solid Waste Disposal Plan

Information Only.

7. Discussion of CARES Act Funding

Elizabeth Hall, James Bates Brannan Grover, along with Duke Groover, Interim County Attorney, presented information regarding the CARES Act Funding. It was the consensus of the Committee to approve Phase 1, Part 1 of the expenses that will be presented.

8. Pension Plans – 457 Plan

Micheal McNeill, Sr Assistant County Attorney, stated that Macon-Bibb County had received a couple of requests to pull funds from their 457 Plan as part of their COVID relief fund. Terri Taylor, counselor for Benefits Law Group, stated that the CARES act offered a couple of options for their plan. One is a short time frame which extended the parameters from which you could get a loan which now is 100% of your vested plan or \$100,000 whichever is lower. The request must be received by September 23, 2020. The decision as to whether to allow for these loans

must be made quickly due to the time crunch but the amendment does not have to be adopted until the deadline in 2024. The requirements to be approved for a loan would be that either you or your spouse had been diagnosed with COVID or due to COVID you have experienced a pay reduction due to reduce hours or due to childcare expenses.

Commissioner Allen stated that he would like to investigate moving forward with allowing employees to apply for a loan. Commissioner Jones stated that this was a lot of information and would like to see something in writing and look at this more closely before approving.

Mr. McNeill stated that the current plan does not offer loans.

It was the consensus of the Commission to continue to look into approving loans for 457 plans.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Commission