

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

July 26, 2016

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Robert Reichert
Commissioner Gary Bechtel
Commissioner Bert Bivins
Commissioner Ed DeFore
Commissioner Mallory Jones
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
Commissioner Al Tillman
Commissioner Virgil Watkins

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Davis, Sheriff of Bibb County
Crystal Jones, Sr. Assistant County Attorney
Charles Coney, Assistant County Manager
Janice Ross, Clerk of the Commission
Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager
Steve Lawson, Director, Parks and Beautification
Brett Lavender, Director, Information Technology
Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Larry Schlesinger

NEWS MEDIA:

Stanley Dunlap, The Telegraph
Mary Grace Shaw, 13WMAZ

VISITORS:

Virgil Adams, Adams, Jordan and Herrington
Clay Murphey, SPLOST Manager
Mark Thompson, NewTown Macon
Jim Pannell, Gray, Pannell & Woodward
Virgil Adams, Adams, Jordan, Herrington

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

1. Approval of Minutes

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the minutes of the July 12, 2016 meeting were approved.

2. SPLOST 2018

- A. Resolution to impose, levy and collect a Special One Percent Sales and Use Tax;

Discussion

Commission Bechtel proposed increasing the amount of GEO Bond to \$100,000,000. Mr. Dale Walker, County Manager, concurred that this amount was feasible. The Commission agreed to increase the GEO bond amount to \$100,000,000 with the stipulation that the Commission will engaged in a conversation with experts to walk through the borrowing procedures.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the amount of GEO bonds was increased to \$100,000,000.

Discussion

Commissioner Bivins stated that he would like to see the construction completed at the Juvenile Justice Center which would include the build out of the third courtroom.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Bivins, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the language under the projects (2) was amended to “including the juvenile justice center”.

Discussion

It was the consensus that the Tubman Museum should be named specifically but no specific amount would be listed but the consensus was to spend \$500,000. Mayor Reichert asked if the inclusion of a public use facility could be considered and included under the sports / entertainment venue. Mr. Adams and Mr. Pannell concurred that the language could include such a facility. It was the consensus of the Commission that a sports / entertainment venue could be considered as part of the SPLOST but further action by the Commission would be required.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously, the language under projects (9) was amended to include “the Tubman Museum”.

Discussion

Sheriff Davis asked if the language could be changed in regarding to public safety to improvements, upgrades to and/or equipping of public safety facilities.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the language under projects (6) was amended to add “upgrades to, and/or equipping of public safety facilities.”

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the Resolution to impose, levy and collect a Special One Percent Sales and Use Tax within Macon-Bibb conditioned upon approval by a majority of the qualified voters residing within Macon-Bibb County voting in an election thereon to be held November 8, 2016; to authorize the imposition of General Obligation Debt of Macon-Bibb County as amended.

3. Motion to add to agenda

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the following item was added to the agenda:

- Millage Rate

Discussion

Mayor Reichert stated that he had received correspondence from the Tax Commissioner stating that there was a slight decline in the tax base attributed to motor vehicles tax. His suggestion was to institute a roll back rate which would increase the millage rate to 14.701 which would be an approximate 0.49 increase and would bring in an additional \$155,000. There was discussion as to whether the new rollback rate would not constitute a tax increase and therefore would not require an advertisement. If the Commission chooses to keep the current millage rate of 14.652 that may be considered an increase and would require advertising. The County Attorney agreed to do further research and advise the Commission.

ACTION

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bechtel and carried unanimously, the rollback millage rate was not accepted and the current millage rate will remain.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CCC
Clerk of the Commission