

**MINUTES OF PRE-COMMISSION MEETING
MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION
July 21, 2020
Government Center**

The Pre-Commission meeting of the Macon - Bibb County Commission was held July 21, 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
Commissioner Scotty Shepherd

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

Guests Present

Robert Walker, Director of Recreation
Spencer Hawkins, Director of EMA
Chris Tsavatewa – Board of Health

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
Julie Moore – Assistant to the County Manager

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, July 21, 2020, Will Be Available To The Macon-Bibb County Commissioners By Video Conference Only For The 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

The meeting tonight was being held as a Committee of the Whole.

Michael McNeill, Sr. Assistant County Attorney, gave an update on the most recent Executive Orders issued by Governor Kemp which included an update on definition of gathering which is now 50 people, The order encourages the use of face masks and the practice of social distancing. The new Executive Order will expire on August 11, 2020 unless it is renewed by the Governor. Mayor Reichert stated that the Mayor is encouraging mask wearing but he is not going to mandate the wearing of masks.

Spencer Hawkins, Director of EMA, gave an update on the number of COVID-19 cases in Macon-Bibb County and the need to establish a protocol for how to effectively battle the virus. He reviewed the two-phase plan for Macon-Bibb County. He too encouraged the wearing of masks and good hand washing along with social distancing. Mr. Hawkins stated that there have been an increase in numbers.

Robert Walker, Director of Recreation, gave an update on the recreation facilities and the affects of COVID-19 on the staff. The Recreation Centers are not opened. The staff at the Recreation Centers are very concerned regarding COVID-19. He continued that he believes it would be smart not to open the centers at this time. There are a couple of employees who have been diagnosed as positive to COVID-19. Dr. Moffett stated that due to this development he had closed the Recreation Department. He continued that Macon-Bibb County has gone to the alternate work schedule but employees are being monitored closely to assure that they are being productive. Mayor Reichert stated that the Tennis Center and Water Park would remain open. Commissioner Lucas stated that the Board of Health was in the process of passing a resolution mandating the wearing of masks. Commissioner Allen stated that he had a resolution authored by the Board of Health.

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

4. Consent Agenda

- A. New Alcohol Business License for Yogimahant 2020 LLC D/B/A Fort Hawkins Package located at 890 Emery Hwy, Macon, GA 31217

On motion of Commissioner Schlesinger, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the new alcohol business license for Yogimahant was passed.

- B. New Alcohol License for Jenil 2015, Inc. D/B/A Neighborhood Gas and Grocery located at 3102 Napier Ave, Macon, GA 31204

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the new alcohol business license for Bianca's Grill was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- C. New Alcohol License for Exxon 2311 LLC D/B/A Exxon Food Mart located at 2311 Pio Nono Ave. Macon, GA 31206

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the new alcohol business license for Exxon was passed.

5. New Business

- A. Discussion of the millage rate

- B. An Ordinance appropriating up to \$700,000 from Fund Balance for a Public Awareness Campaign. (Sponsored by Commissioner Joe Allen)
On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to appropriate fund for a Public Awareness Campaign was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- C. An Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Sponsored by Commissioner Joe Allen)

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to appropriate fund for a Public Awareness Campaign was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- D. An Ordinance to repeal and replace Chapter 17, Article II of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances to rename of the Tree Commission as "Arbor Conservative Board" (Sponsored by Commissioner Elaine Lucas)

On motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried unanimously, the Ordinance repeal and replace Chapter 17, Article II of the Inaugural Code of Ordinances to rename of the Tree Commission as "Arbor Conservative Board" was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- E. An Ordinance amend certain sections of Chapter 4 of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances for the purpose of categorizing and regulating certain classes of small footprint retail stores; to require the Sheriff's approval of security camera systems for certain establishments (Sponsored by Commissioner Virgil Watkins, Jr.)

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Schlesinger and carried unanimously, the Ordinance to amend certain sections of Chapter 4 of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances for the purpose of categorizing and regulating certain classes of small footprint retail stores; to require the Sheriff's approval of security camera systems for certain establishments was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

- F. An Resolution to assure compliance with the Constitution of the State of Georgia by assessing and providing for the collection of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on General Obligation Bonds to be issued by the Bibb county School district in the aggregate principal amount of \$15,550,000 as authorized at an election held for that purpose on November 5, 2019 (Sponsored by Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert.)

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Wynn and carried unanimously, the Resolution to assure compliance with the Constitution of the State of Georgia by assessing and providing for the collection of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on General Obligation Bonds to be issued by the Bibb county School district in the aggregate principal amount of \$15,550,000 as authorized at an election held for that purpose on November 5, 2019 was approved and added to tonight's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Pre-Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice S. Ross, CMC
Clerk of the Commission