

MINUTES
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 25, 2005
6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Commissioner Samuel F. Hart, Sr., Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, Commissioner Elmo Richardson Jr., and Commissioner Joe O. Allen.

Staff present: Mr. Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Mr. Bill Johnston, Director of Buildings & Properties; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Tony Rousey, ITS Director; Mrs. Barbara Wood, Public Affairs Officer; Mr. Sam Kitchens, Assistant Director, Buildings & Properties and Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board. Other staff in attendance was Ms. Charlene Maynard, Human Resources, and Mrs. Bel Wall, Human Resources.

News Media: Mr. Travis Fain of The Telegraph.

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed Dr. Bill Hardee, Pastor of Vineville Baptist Church, and asked everyone to stand for the **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**.

Chairman Bishop asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2005 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed Ms. Heather Scott of Wesleyan College; Mr. Jeff Button and Mr. Mike Daugherty of Nottingham Drive; Mr. Marion McMillan, Jr., of Juliette, Georgia; Mr. William T. Barnes, III, of the Bibb County Board of Education; Ms. Mary Beth Barker of Forsyth Road; Mr. Bob Lewis; Mr. Javors Lucas of Winston Drive; Mrs. Ayesha Thornton; Mr. Clifford Whitby of Travis Blvd., Mr. Jimmie Samuel of Macon-Bibb County EOC; Mr. Albert Billingslea, former County Commissioner; Mr. Clifford Johnson; Ms. Miriam Paris of Suwanee Avenue; Mrs. Colleen Giffin of St. Clara Drive; Mr. Norman Wills of Trinity Place; Mr. Jeremy Riley of Ahwenasa Trail; Ms. Johnnie Mae Dawkins, Ms. Nettie Thomas, Miss Jasmine Thomas and Gabrielle Russell

of Kings Park; Ms. Yvette and Fernella Cabey of Kings Park; Mr. Ed Cutchens of Hilltop Drive and Mr. John James of Jackson Springs Road.

Chairman Bishop called on those visitors who wanted to address the Board. The first speaker was Mr. William T. Barnes, III, of the Board of Education. Mr. Barnes distributed a handout to the members of the Board stating that he would like to view it as, "Beginning the Dialogue." **Mr. Barnes' comments were as follows:**

"I'm coming here for two reasons, one as a citizen and then one as the treasurer of the Bibb County Board of Education. What I've given you is kind of lengthy and wordy, but I would not do it justice. As you well know, Board of Education or School Board finances is probably the most difficult thing to learn and I think you've been forced to learn it over the last few years as we've come before the Commission with our budget from the Board. Well, we won't have to do that next year, hopefully. We still might do it just for old time sake. There is a dilemma that we do face and that this illustrates how important it is that we have evaluations of our property done in a timely fashion. If you look at that third sheet, it shows the millage rates and Mr. Vaughn or someone from your Finance department, I'm sure, will go over this but each year, we set our millage rate, and we establish what a mill represents but each year the State does the same thing and they set it at 40% and I will make one admission here, up front, it does not include our property in lieu of taxes but they establish what they think 40% or our millage rate should be and what one mill should represent. If you take that all the way across the graph I gave you, in 1999, when we established our millage rate and the State did theirs, for every five mills they had a \$2,379,000 plus difference. So, for every five mills we collected they were saying we were collecting \$2.3 million less than we should have if it was as the true evaluation level. Now that doesn't seem like a lot but our millage rate then was 15 mills, so we essentially lost three times that. This is quick math here, so \$7.9 million we didn't collect for the students of this district. Now, I want you to follow that through, In 2002, we had our first re-eval and our difference was only \$233,000 for one mill, that's a big difference, that's a ten-fold decrease. If you take that out over time that means over a six-year period that we had not had a re-eval in the 12 years prior to that, we lost about \$35 million to the coffers that we should have collected from our own millage rate. That's a significant amount of money when you're talking about managing a district of our size. And it wasn't until the recent tax assessors' office did their re-eval that we get close to being in line. We're afraid now that, because of the turmoil or the difference or the transition in leadership, we'll be back in the situation again where our five mill share will be greater than what we're collecting. Now, the State takes theirs. They calculate what five mills is and they withhold that from our State earnings, so that \$2.39 million we lost with them is just the difference in what five mills would be, but that that we assess for every five mills, we could potentially lose \$2.3 million, that's .95 mills. That puts our district at a very distinct disadvantage to other areas that do their re-evals in a more timely fashion. So, I'd just like, on behalf of the Board, to say we we'd like to establish a dialogue based around this issue to see how we can best rectify the situation in the Tax Assessors office to our benefit because just like we assessing did not collect the full amount, the millage rate you select and pick was also deficient of this same dollar amount. So, it not only impacts the students but it impacts everybody that gets services

from Bibb County. So, it's very significant and it's very important for us as a Board that we see some movement in reestablishing the leadership that we've had more recently and not regress back to that we had prior to then when the re-evals were not done and we were in a deficit situation in our collection." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Barnes for his comments.

Next, Chairman Bishop called on Mr. Bob Lewis. **Mr. Lewis' comments were as follows:**

"Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I came tonight to talk to you about Calvin Hicks. Calvin was the Chief Appraiser in the Tax Office and it's kind of ironic that I come by and Mr. Barnes is talking about having accuracy and someone who is very professional in that office. As most of all of you know, I been in the commercial real estate business for more than 30 years and I knew Calvin before he was in the Tax Assessors office and I knew when he first came in the Tax Assessors office and watched him progress up the ladder there to become the Chief Appraiser. I just wanted to come tonight to tell you that as far as my experience with him has been and many others that I have talked to, that as far as a public servant is concerned he is probably one of the finest that I ever had the pleasure of dealing with. Calvin is the kind of guy that his door is always open, he always return your phone call, he always listened to what you had to say. He was not an easy guy, you had to go in and if you disagreed with him with an assessment you had to give him plenty of backup, you had to give him plenty of actual history and facts for him to act on and many times you still may not get the answer that you'd like to have, but when you came away you always felt like you had had your opportunity at a forum and you kind of had your day in court. I think we are going to be at a big disadvantage with him not in that position. I don't know if there is anything the Commission can do in regard to that but as far as someone who I think has dedicated most of his life to a particular job, he has done an outstanding job and I think you'll find many, many people in this community would agree with me and I hope that you will consider that." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Lewis for his comments."

Next, Chairman Bishop called on Mr. Jimmie Samuel. **Mr. Samuel's comments were as follows:**

"Thank you, I want to speak on that same issue, Mr. Hicks. As most of you know, I'm coming as a citizen but I also direct Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council. We are in the Randall Building just as the Tax Assessors are. We're upstairs in the Randall Building and had a good relationship and experience with Calvin before he became the Chief Appraiser and the office was reorganized. Always professional guy and we had a very good relationship, I think, in terms of ---- we have transitional houses in the County. We are a first-time homebuyer developer and we work together on various things. So, I echo what the gentleman just said before me. I'll tell you that there's a foul odor coming from that decision that was made down there and I'm not the only one smelling it. It's all over the community and I would strongly recommend to you that a

full investigation be done about what happened there. I don't know all the details, obviously, because I wasn't in the meeting, I wasn't there, they had some closed sessions. It doesn't seem right at all to me and a lot of people I've talked to and this County is being disserved by these actions. Quite frankly for me, it smacks of impropriety and with racial overtones. It's clear to me that regard. So, I think a serious investigation needs to occur and if it smells as bad after the investigation that whole crew that did that need to go." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Samuel for his comments.

Next, Chairman Bishop called on Mr. Clifford Whitby. **Mr. Whitby's comments were as follows:**

"Good evening, gentlemen. I'm Clifford Whitby. I'm a local business owner here in Macon. I'm a developer, just an overall business person in the community, born and raised here. I would also like to speak on that subject but not just that subject, just the overall current situation we have in Bibb County and the surrounding counties in general because we all live here, this is home for all of us. As I said earlier, I was born and raised here. As I listened to my good friend, Mr. Barnes speak about the issues with the Board of Education and the gentleman speak as a realtor and a businessperson, doing business in the County, and Mr. Samuel, who I know very well also, it just strikes me as somewhat odd that, you fine gentlemen sit here, just recently elected to serve and as Mr. Samuel said, we're in the community. I'm in the community everyday and listening to the complaints and the concerns of the citizens of this community who you serve. To be quite honest, we have very difficult issues to address as a community, as a whole. We recognize that you have a tough job, we recognize that you have tough decisions but, quite frankly, you positioned yourself or you vowed for those seats that you're sitting in, so to say it's tough is really not an excuse to me. As this gentleman said earlier, I had dealings with Calvin as well. It hadn't always gone the way I thought but just as he said, I felt like I had my day when I spoke with him and when we addressed the issue. I think that we have to honestly look at what's in the best interest of this community as a whole and to do that, sometimes you have to come back and do some things that will offend some people or cause some disruption in the flow, but I don't think it's an understatement to say that we're in challenging times here in Bibb County and I think courageous leadership is needed now by the people that asked to serve this community. We don't know the whole story, but we know Calvin. We know the professionalism he's demonstrated as he held that office. I go all over the state and this guy is very well represented. I was in Birmingham, Alabama and one of the guys came up and said, "you guys let Calvin go." As Jimmie said, it just don't smell good and we want some answers. We really want to know what happened, why and we want to know what's going to be done to correct it, thank you." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Whitby for his comments.

Next, Chairman Bishop called on Mr. Marion McMillan, Jr. **Mr. McMillan's comments were as follows:**

“Good evening. I would like to thank the County Commissioners for this opportunity to express my opinions about Calvin Claude Hicks, Jr. I’ve been a resident of Middle Georgia for almost 53 years; currently own an Allstate Insurance Agency on Baconsfield Drive. My family has been in Bibb County over 150 years. I have known Calvin Hicks, Jr., for almost 30 years. When I met Calvin, I was in management with C & S Bank and Calvin was a rookie real estate agent with Alexander Frost. Eventually, Calvin started his own agency known as Sun Realty in the old Cherokee Heights Shopping Center. During that time, Calvin sold my first house and bailed me out of a cabinet problem that I had on my second home. If we were to play the word game association and I was given his name, the first thing I would say about Calvin is Integrity. Integrity can be expressed in many ways. Sometimes it is used synonymously with Moral. It can also mean Wholeness or Intactness. For example, structural engineers may say that a bridge or building has integrity. In the movie, “The Untouchables,” Kevin Costner play the role of Elliott Nest who was known to have integrity because he was not corrupted by the Chicago mob. Therefore, the word can also refer to a person’s character. In my opinion, you have to have a strong constitution to be tax assessor. Most people are not happy when their property values are increased and it leads to higher taxes. I can imagine that Calvin has had verbal as well as physical threats because of the decisions made by the Tax Assessors’ office. And I ask myself, why would a sane individual want that position? Once I remember being a party to a three way conversation between Calvin, his father, also known as Calvin, and myself. The conversation was about the value of his chosen profession. Calvin’s father compared it to an animal control officer, also known as a dog catcher, because people generally don’t have a good opinion of animal control officers even though they do a job. Okay. Calvin talked to his father and told him that this was something that needs to be done and that he would always do it to the best of his ability, the same way that his father had shown him how to do construction work. Why was Calvin let go? There use to be stockbrokers firm known E.F. Hutton. Hutton’s slogan was, “When E.F. Hutton speaks, Everybody Listens.” Do to his reputation for being accurate, Calvin was and is asked to give his opinions about a lot of things concerning real estate. In fact, I recently read where the Macon Water Authority hired him in the role of a consultant. You’re not asked to consult unless your judgments can be trusted. I have often called him and asked him his opinions about property matters and found his answers to be, usually, very helpful. Is he a professional? If I was given that again, in terms of the word association, that’s what I would use. He is a professional. There’s nothing slack about Calvin Hicks. He’s always dressed and carries himself in a manner that shows that he is a professional. Therefore, whenever Calvin has done business for me, it has been correctly and usually on time. Maybe he was let go because he was lazy. I know that usually, from my dealings with him, he’s the first one there and the last one to leave. I’m sure his obsession with his work has probably caused him problems with his family. One time I made the mistake of dialing my re-dial button around 9:00 at night and I had talked to Calvin around 5:00 that afternoon. Calvin was still at work. Maybe he was let go because he’s not a caring individual. Calvin’s father has been in ill health over a decade and recently had a medical setback. I’ve called Calvin’s home many evenings and was told that Calvin was at his father’s house helping him to bathe, helping him to eat, and clothing him. In other words, the most intimate

details of a person's life. And sometimes people say Calvin is not social. I remember at a concert here in Macon where M.C. Hammer and En Vogue were the entertainers. Calvin didn't see me, but he seemed to be having a good time, especially when En Vogue came on. Maybe he is not a company man! In my experience with Calvin, he has never said a disparaging remark about the tax assessors or the people there, even after this occurred. In essence, to me, Calvin Hicks is a consummate gentleman who has lived by the book and work hard. In closing, I would like to say, in my profession, when I was first trained we were told something called the "t" close. And basically what it is ---- you list your pluses and minuses, the pros and the cons, the strengths and weaknesses. And when I was thinking about Calvin, I thought about his integrity, his good character, his professionalism, his caring nature, his businesslike manner, his frankness, his truthfulness, his punctuality and he does things by the book. I appreciate this opportunity to talk about Mr. Hicks. Thank you." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. McMillan for his comments.

Next, Chairman Bishop called on Mr. Ed Cutchens. **Mr. Cutchens' comments were as follows:**

"I'm Ed Cutchens. I came to Bibb County as an educator. I helped to established Macon Technical School in 1965 and opened it up in 1966. My first dealings in real estate was when I bought my first house over on Ingleside, two blocks from the shopping center there. My next encounter in real estate was that we offered real estate there at Macon Tech, 940 Forsyth Street. I taught real estate courses for brokers and agents as Mr. Lewis is quite well aware of and I have properties in three different counties, hope to have it in four by this time next week. The next thing I want to mention is the competency of people. I've never met a person ---- and I have dealt with the Assessors Board, I have dealt with the chief appraiser in four or five different counties, and I've never come across anybody that has any more degree of accuracy than this man. He's got a demeanor about him that he will eventually show it for you to agree to his way. Not every time though, Calvin! I think you're very fortunate to have had this person for this number of years and I think you will be more fortunate if you will continue to have him in this capacity and that's all I have to say at this time. Thank you." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Cutchens for his comments.

Next, Chairman Bishop called on Mr. John James. **Mr. James' comments were as follows:**

"My name is John James. I practice law here, for about 40 years. During that period of time, it's been my pleasure for about 25 years to be on the Coliseum Authority. I followed Charlie Adams when his position vacated. Some of you probably know the Coliseum Authority is self-perpetuating. I served quite a number of years, probably about 15 years, as Chairman. At one point we had a vacancy. I had practiced law for a number of years with Bobby Shipp, who some of you may know. Bobby was in my office and I told him we were looking for a replacement member. We had someone drop off. And he recommended Calvin to us. As you may know, Bobby was very active over in the Tax Assessors office at that time. He said Calvin is the best numbers man you'll ever

encounter. And we did talk to Calvin. I told him it was a free job and a lot of work but we'd have some fun. We were about to do the big addition onto the Coliseum. Calvin came on and did a wonderful job. After we completed that project and before we went to the lobby project, I resigned as chairman and that commission elected him as chairman which tells you something of his management skills and his support given to him by the Coliseum Authority. At that point, he'd been on the Coliseum Authority about six or eight years. He has been chairman for a couple or three years and has done a wonderful job. I don't know what transpired. I called Calvin shortly after I read the article in the paper and said what happened. He said he wasn't sure. There were a number of charges floating around but he had not had an opportunity to respond to them. I understand that's a sealed situation. I understand that it's possible for this Commission to give him a hearing or have a hearing and give him an opportunity to respond to whatever the charges are. If they're correct, he ought to go. If they're not correct, he ought to have an opportunity to respond to it, but to do it without any opportunity to respond and without knowing what the charges are is not the form of government that I think we have in this country and in this county. Now, everybody has been talking about what a great job he did. I went to him twice with pieces of property I had that he'd overvalued and he didn't change it." Commissioner Bivins responded he was doing a good job. Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. James for his comments.

Chairman Bishop asked if there was anyone else who wanted to speak. Mr. Jeff Button stated that he did. **Mr. Button's comments were as follows:**

"I had no idea what this was about this evening. I'm a former employee of the Assessors' Office and I can only say that I only know of Mr. Hicks as being a very fair and honest person and probably the hardest working man I've ever seen in my life. I have left the County; I have moved to Missouri, lasted five months out there, moved back to Macon, Georgia after five months. I think Mr. Hicks was probably the best man I have ever known as far as working for him and I just wanted to put my input in real quick. I believe he's very fair and an honest man and I don't think I've heard of his name in many other areas and he's always been very highly regarded and I'm sure that there's a mistake in letting this man go. I did not even know that he was no longer with the County. So, I did want to put my opinion in and as I said, I'm not an employee any longer and my circumstances for leaving had nothing to do with Mr. Hicks. It was a decision of my own. I just wanted to put my opinion in on that, okay." Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Button for his comments.

Commissioner Allen asked if he could make a statement pertaining to the matter at hand. Having the consent of Chairman Bishop, Commissioner Allen referred to a local newspaper article that read, "Board of Assessors defies Bibb County Commissioners." Commissioner Allen stated that after reviewing the Board of Assessors' minutes dealing with the recent exemption approval where the staff had recommended the exemption be denied. He stated that he was asking that the County Attorney the practices of the Board of Assessors. It's my understanding that the exemption was denied but later the Board granted their courtesy review and they voted to grant the previously denied exemption. Commissioner Allen stated that he also wanted to ask the County Attorney to investigate

the actions of the Board of Assessors in establishing certain policies and procedures which are contradictive to the policies and procedures of Bibb County.

Commissioner Allen continued that the Board (of Commissioners) asked them (Board of Assessors) to do something and he doesn't believe they're following the procedures of Bibb County. He further stated that he would like to ask the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners to ask the County Attorney to look at this.

Commissioner Bivins stated that he agrees and has complained all alone and that these people who have spoken today have said things that fit his feelings exactly. He stated that he was puzzled by why we take a person who's done an outstanding job and let him go, and I don't care that somebody says, "well, we do it because we can." It is not in the best interest of Bibb County what has happened. He stated it will make him happy if this Board (of Commissioners) would agree to freeze the salary of the Chief Appraiser until this matter can be resolved.

Commissioner Allen stated that was his motion and this isn't all about Calvin Hicks. This concerns what these people (Board of Assessors) have done in defiance of this (Board of Commissioners) government also. ***Commissioner Bivins seconded the motion.***

Chairman Bishop deferred to the County Attorney as to whether the before mentioned motion was in order. Mr. Adams stated that he was not familiar with the part about the exemption.

Commissioner Allen stated that there were two things and he read them as follows:

"After reviewing the Board of Assessors' minutes dealing with a recent exemption approval where the staff had recommended the exemption be denied, I am asking that the County Attorney investigate the practices of the Board of Assessors. It is my understanding that the exemption was denied but the Board later granted a courtesy review and voted to grant the previously denied exemption. Secondly, I also ask that you investigate the actions of the Board of Assessors in establishing certain policies and procedures which are contradictive to the policies and procedures of Bibb County." Commissioner Allen added that this is reflected in the newspaper. ***Commissioner Bivins seconded the motion.***

County Attorney Adams stated there was nothing improper about the motion. Chairman Bishop added that he doesn't know what investigative powers he has. Chairman Bishop asked Commissioner Allen if he was asking that the Board Chairman investigate the matter. Commissioner Allen stated that he wants the Board Chairman to ask the County Attorney to look into it and see if they (Board of Assessors) has defied what the Board (of Commissioners) has asked them to do.

Commissioner Bivins stated that was another thing that he's mentioned too. He continued that he was here when the Board made the changes and based on what he understands, the Tax Assessors' Board has not carried out the wishes, needs and desires of Bibb County and they are not operating in the best interest of Bibb County.

Commissioner Allen added that the County Attorney can bring back his findings to the Board.

County Attorney Adams reiterated there was nothing wrong with the motion but the only concern he would have about doing it himself is, he thinks, there would be a conflict because that's also one of the departments that his firm whines up doing legal work for and, in fact, they've got a tax appeal scheduled for trial in a few weeks. With that being said, Commissioner Allen asked that the Board Chairman finds an outside attorney he feels comfortable with to investigate this matter. Commissioner Bivins stated that they already have an attorney who's been looking into it and he thinks he asked in the past that the Board have him look at some things. He stated that he didn't follow up on this but he agrees the Board needs someone to look into it.

Chairman Bishop stated that there was a motion and a second and asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Richardson stated that they had talked about this before and he thought they had an opinion from an attorney at one time. He stated that the Board had discussed the matter but not taken any action. He stated that maybe the Board needs to refer the matter to the Risk Management Committee. He stated that the majority of the Board wanted to revisit the matter and he thinks they need to go through the proper procedures. He further stated that he agreed with the County Attorney in that he probably does have a conflict of interest and would not be the appropriate one to investigate this.

Chairman Bishop stated that he would confer with the attorney and report back to the Board. With that, Chairman Bishop stated there was a motion and a second and called for the question. **Commissioner Richardson voted No.**

For clarification, Chairman Bishop asked if the Board was asking to confer with the attorney. He stated that they have had two differing opinions, adding that one attorney said he had a conflict and the other attorney, basically, said that we had nothing but a recommendation authority. He stated that he wanted to make the Board aware of this in a public meeting. He further stated that it will put him and the County Attorney in a difficult position but he'll do whatever the Board wants him to do, adding that he and the attorney will confer about it and he will report back to the Board.

Commissioner Allen added that since the Board has two opinions that are different, it needs that third opinion. Commissioner Bivins added that the second attorney was somebody who wasn't familiar with a lot of procedures and things about Bibb County and that he relied on the information he was given. Commissioner Bivins stated that he was not sure he was given information that was altogether unbiased and that he had even asked that the Board provide him with different information. He stated that they didn't follow up on that but he agrees that it needs to be done.

Chairman Bishop reiterated that he and the County Attorney would get together and whatever decision that they think is proper, they'll report back to the Board.

Commissioner Allen asked if the report could be ready in two weeks. Chairman Bishop and Attorney Adams responded that they had no problem with that timeframe.

Commissioner Bivins stated that based on everything he knows about all this, he resents the firing of Mr. Hicks.

REFERRALS:

The following item was referred to **ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS:**

Letter from Mr. L. A. Mitchell, Austin Chase Apartments, #2402, requesting that sidewalks be placed on Plantation Centre Drive.

The following item was referred to **LICENSE & TAX:**

Correspondence from Mr. C. Keith Rowell, 148 Westchester Drive, requesting a refund of the penalties and interest charges on his home, boat, street lights and garbage fees.

RECORD & INFORMATION:

1. Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: Clerk of State Court.
2. The Official Bond and Oath of Mr. Thomas W. Tedders, Jr., Tax Commissioner, for the term commencing on January 1, 2005 and ending on January 1, 2009, was approved by The Honorable William J. Self, II, Judge, Probate Court of Bibb County, and is on file in the Commissioners Office.

ACTION: None

Report of the Chairman's Activities:

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| Jan. | 12 th | -Chamber Board Orientation @ The Chamber of Commerce
-Trip to Atlanta regarding State Money |
| | 13 th | -Meeting with Ray Clark, Bill Vaughn & Ken Sheets
-Meeting with June O'Neal (Mentor's Program)
-Meeting with Commissioner Hart, Bill Vaughn, Ken Sheets, Ed Walsh & Jim Wilson & Associates
-Exchange Club of Macon
-Meeting with Robert Reichert (Right Size Commission)
-RDC Board Meeting |
| | 14 th | -Meeting with Ben Hinson of Mid Georgia Ambulance
-Project Phoenix Announcement @ Fickling Farms |

- 15th -Museum of Arts and Sciences (Rededication Ceremony of the Foucault Pendulum)
-Museum of Arts and Sciences Dinner
- 16th -Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet & Awards Ceremony
- 18th -Meeting with Bill Vaughn, Jim Davis, Kathy Bowden & Tom Yocum (Drivers' License Bureau Bldg)
-Meeting with Deborah Martin (Pay Calculations)
-Meeting with Greg Popham, Bill Vaughn and Commissioner Hart (Construction Activities in Beall's Hill)
-Macon-Middle Georgia Economic Outlook Luncheon
-Special Called Engineering/Public Meeting with Ken Sheets, Vernon Ryle, Cora Cook, Commissioner Hart, Commissioner Bivins and Commissioner Richardson (Transportation Plan & Non-Attainment)
-Meeting with Judge Matthews (Juvenile Court Project)
- 19th -Meeting with State Representative Freeman
-Meeting with Jimmy Conner
-Meeting with Bob Fountain (Mental Health Board)
-Meeting with Tommy Brown (Personnel Issue)
-Meeting with Bill Vaughn (Bass Pro & Other matters)
Pictometry Meeting @ RDC
- 20th -Meeting with Julie Pennybacker (Education First)
-Exchange Club of Macon
-Staff Meeting with Appointment Dept. Heads
- 21st -Roads Program Update Meeting with Bill Vaughn, Ken Sheets & Van Ethridge
-Reverend Curtis Raines' Inauguration as Vice President of the Greater Missionary Baptist Convention
- 24th -Called Industrial Authority Meeting (re: Bass Pro Shops)
-Meeting with Jim Tonn & Ralph Nix (re: Bass Pro Shops)
-Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting
- 25th -Meeting with Dr. Kirby Godsey @ Mercer University along with Mayor Ellis and others

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE, TAX AND REVENUE COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Hart reported the following:

1. The Committee meeting as a Committee of the whole recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2005 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,500.00 to cover cost of Community Service through the Sheriff's Office. The cost will be offset with revenue.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

2. The Committee meeting as a Committee of the whole recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2005 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$12,282.00 to cover cost of a special City Election. The cost will be offset by revenue from the City of Macon.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

3. The Committee meeting as a Committee of the whole recommends approval of adding Chairman Bishop and Bill Vaughn as Authorized County Representatives for disbursements on various bonds and the Bibb County Pension Plan.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

4. The Committee meeting as a Committee of the whole recommends the bid for Dump Trucks be awarded to Beck Motor Company in the amount of \$109,138.00.

The Committee meeting as a Committee of the whole further recommends approval of an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,638.00.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

5. The Committee recommends approval of a Resolution of the Chairman and Commissioners of Bibb County authorizing submission of a joint application between Bibb County, the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, the Macon Water Authority and the Economic Development Administration U.S. Department of Commerce, United States of America, for a grant under the terms of Public Law §89-136, as amended with regard to the Bass Road Development; and for other purposes.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

6. The Committee recommends approval of a Resolution of the Chairman and Commissioners of Bibb County authorizing submission of an Employment

Incentive Program application to Georgia's Department of Community Affairs with regard to the Bass Road Development; and for other purposes.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

7. The Committee recommends approval of authorization for Board Chairman to sign letter requesting the RDC's assistance in providing support services to Bibb County, Macon Economic Development Commission, Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, the Macon Water Authority, and other officials involved in Phoenix Project.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

8. The Committee recommends that a committee, consisting of Barry Smallwood, Tommy Brown, Bill Vaughn, Sam Hart, Danny Thompson and Deborah Martin, be set up to review the RFP's for audit services and report back to the Finance Committee with a recommendation of February 8, 2005.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

9. The Committee recommends approval of a Resolution naming Chairman Bishop, William C. Vaughn, II, and Deborah R. Martin as Authorized Officers for an account at Smith Barney for investment of SPLOST proceeds.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - No Report.

ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

1. The Committee, acting as a Committee of the whole, recommends approval of the ordinance establishing and constituting Hidden Creek Subdivision, Phase II, as Street Light District No. 5035.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

2. The Committee, acting as a Committee of the whole, recommends approval of the ordinance establishing and constituting Broadleaf Subdivision as Street Light District No. 5051.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

3. The Committee, acting as a Committee of the whole, recommends that the request of Mr. James L. Rollins, Jr., The Summit Group, that the County grant a sewer easement at Arrowhead Park, Lake Tobesofkee to a 110-acre parcel adjoining the park be approved, subject to (1) The Summit Group paying for the survey and appraisal and (2) The Summit Group paying Bibb County for the easement an amount to be mutually agreed upon.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE - No Report.

Commissioner Bivins reported that he went to the Macon Water Authority for a briefing and received some information to study so as to get re-familiar with that operation.

Commissioner Bivins advised that he attended the 18th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Banquet this past Sunday and that he received an award for his dedication to “Keeping the Dream Alive” by his many years of service to the community.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE -

Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

The Committee recommends approval of the revised ordinance regarding the Pension Advisory Committee. The Ordinance was by the following caption:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION VI OF THE CODE OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, ENTITLED “PENSION AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM”; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Commissioner Richardson stated that the essence of this ordinance was to create a Pension Advisory Committee composed of the following:

1. One active general Bibb County employee;
2. One retired general Bibb County employee;
3. One active Bibb County law enforcement employee;
4. One retired Bibb County law enforcement employee;
5. One Bibb County Commissioner.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report.

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Allen reported the following:

The Committee recommends approval for the Bibb County American Cancer Society to host their annual “Relay for Life” event at Sandy Beach Park on May 13 and 14, 2005, and that all fees be waived.

On motion of Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Allen reported the following:

The Committee recommends approval of Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Bibb County in support of the Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor Feasibility Study.

On motion of Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No Report.

NEW BUSINESS – Chairman Bishop stated that he appreciates everyone for coming tonight to express their opinions and concerns. He stated that he also appreciates the fact that his fellow commissioners put up with him because he is a different chairman from the last chairman and he has his own idiosyncrasies and he has a pledge to everyone that he believes in open and honest government and in giving everyone a chance to come and participate. He further stated that he feels this is the place for the citizens to have the platform to speak and say what you want to and within reason he’ll allow the citizens to talk as long as they want because he elected to run for the position and he appreciates the input and although he might not always agree, he also believes they have a right to disagree with him. He thanked everyone for their indulgence and for being here tonight.

There being no further business, and on motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond
Clerk of the Board