

MINUTES

BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 1, 2008

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Vice Chairman Bert Bivins, III, Commissioner Joe O. Allen, Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson, Jr. and Commissioner Lonzy Edwards.

Staff present: Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer; Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Tony Rousey, Director of Information & Technology Services; Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board; Janice Ross, Administrative Assistant, Barbara Wood, Public Affairs Officer; Bel Wall, Human Resources and Deborah Booker, Human Resources.

News Media present: Keich Whicker, The Telegraph.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

In the absence of a guest minister, Commissioner Lonzy Edwards rendered the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried, the regular meeting Minutes of March 18, 2008 were approved.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors:

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| Jasper Johnson | William Bell | Jim Curry |
| Ira Jordan | Edward Line | Horace Anderson |
| Sammy Johnson | Walter Milner | Jamerio Smith |
| Hazel Giddens | Donald Richardson | Nettie Thomas |
| David Dugger | Kenneth Barlow | Sanchez Graham |
| Matthew Mosley | | |

Mr. Sanchez Graham, who was accompanied by several employees of the Engineering/Public Works department, addressed the Board by stating that he was an equipment operator at the Bibb County Public Works department. He stated that, today, he was acting as a representative for the employees, laborers, operators and a majority of the supervisors of the Bibb County Engineering Department. Mr. Sanchez stated that they were a unified body seeking answers to the following issues:

Issue #1 – Financial Contributions for Employees, specifically, a Cost-of-Living raise, which he stated there hasn't been one since the year 2000; a Merit Cap after 13 steps and no re-evaluations thereafter; and Benefits vs. Pay Scale. He stated that with every raise, there is also an increase in expenses which doesn't amount to much of a raise.

Issue #2 – Internal Employee Progression, specifically, a lack of knowledge of how to obtain a promotion in various positions. Moreover, what does it take for an Operator 1 to become an Operator 2 or 4 and likewise from a Supervisor 1 to a Supervisor 2 and so on. What about Training Classes?

Issue #3 – Employee Requests, specifically, Safety Bonus Awards and a Re-Vamp of "Public Works Week", to boost the morale of employees. They would prefer a whole week of activities or one full day versus a half day they are presently receiving (during work hours)

Mr. Graham closed by stating that the employees at Engineering/Public Works are committed to their jobs. He stated that they leave their homes during storms to open up roads and in doing so, risk their lives to make life easier for other citizens and he believes they have provided outstanding service to Bibb County. He stated that their jobs have put stress on their families both financially and emotionally. He also stated that they sacrifice to do a job that they feel does not respect them in the same way and they think it's time for some changes and this is why they are seeking help from the Board of Commissioners with these issues.

Mr. Graham stated that these same issues were documented on February 27, 2008 at their work site on Knight Road.

Chairman Bishop advised Mr. Graham that the issues he presented will be referred to the Human Resources & Information Services Committee for consideration.

Noting that Mr. Graham's comments were in written form, Commissioner Edwards asked him to leave a copy of them with the Clerk so that they might be able to more adequately address those items at the Human Resources Committee meeting.

Commissioner Allen stated that he wanted all of the Engineering/Public Works employees to know that the Board appreciates them and don't take them for granted. He also stated that while they do an excellent job, a lot of other people in Bibb County are in the same boat that they're in and the Board is trying harder everyday to do what's right and hope that they can this year. He asked them to try and work with the Board and continue doing the job they're doing and hopefully, they can get this back to the way it was.

REFERRALS:

The following items were referred to **Engineering/Public Works:**

1. Proposal from the Bibb County Sheriff's Office to change the speed zone on Barrington Hall Drive from 25 mph to 35 mph.
2. Petitions from Wendell Parker for the registration of Willow Cove, Tobee Drive, Big Pine Drive, Little Hickory Drive and Big Oak Circle in the Tobee Creek Subdivision as public roads of Bibb County.

The following item was referred to **Properties Committee:**

1. Correspondence from Richard Mullis, Sr., Mayor of Payne City, requesting a pickup truck from Bibb County surplus.

The following item was referred to **Finance Committee:**

1. Authorization for Board Chairman to sign Agreement between Bibb County and On Time Medical Transport for the pickup of bodies of deceased humans for appropriate transportation.

RECORD AND INFORMATION: None.

ACTION: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No Report

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

1. The Committee recommends approval of the ordinance to fix the maximum speed limit on Walden Road and South Walden Road at 35 miles per hour.

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

2. The Committee recommends that the request of the Macon Economic Development Commission to name the road running from Hawkinsville Road (SR247) through Sofkee Industrial Park to Allen Road "Kumho Parkway" be approved.

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

3. The Committee recommends that a 4-way Stop and rumble strips be installed at the intersection of Old Columbus Road at Harrison Road/Interstate Drive.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Allen asked County Engineer Ken Sheets what kind of timetable they're looking at before the new traffic devices are implemented.

Mr. Sheets responded about 30 – 45 days.

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

3. The Committee recommends approval of the ordinance to fix the maximum speed limit on Broadleaf Drive, from Forsyth Road to its end, at 25 miles per hour.

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

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of a new 2008 Alcoholic Beverage License for Macon Enterprises dba Raceway located at 5127 Mercer University Drive.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of a new 2008 Alcoholic Beverage License for 2nd Chance located at 3260-B Jeffersonville Road.

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

MACON WATER AUTHORITY – No Report.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – No Report.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY – No Report.

FINANCE, TAX AND REVENUE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2008 General Fund budget in the amount of \$2,250.00 for furniture for Juvenile Court.

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

2. The Committee recommends awarding the bid for Rabon Insecticide to Chick Supplies, Inc. in the amount of \$27,590.00.

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

3. The Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2008 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$22,500.00 for a new car for the District Attorney.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved by a four-to-one (4-1) vote. Commissioner Bivins cast the dissenting vote.

4. The Committee recommends approval of authorization for Chairman Bishop to sign two contracts for billboard advertising for Lake Tobesofkee. The Committee further authorizes the approval of a Supplemental Appropriation to the FY 2008 Tobesofkee Fund in the amount of \$2,000.00 to cover the cost of the 2nd billboard for two months.

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

5. The Committee recommends awarding requisition #55407 for Portable Two Way Radios to Macon Communications in the amount of \$21,158.90.

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

6. The Committee recommends approval of a Blackberry for Sam Kitchens.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved by a four-to-one (4-1) vote. Commissioner Bivins cast the dissenting vote.

7. The Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the 2008 Fire Fund to record a Homeland Security Grant.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE – Committee
Chairman Edwards reported the following:

1. The Committee approves the recommendation of the Finance Director for a temporary employee in the Finance Department until the position is filled. Funding will be provided from existing salaries.

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

2. The Committee recommends the approval of the Bibb County Government Tobacco Cessation Program, effective April 1, 2008. Participants will be required to adhere to the tobacco Cessation Provision as outlined on the attachment.

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

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Edwards reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of the request from the Macon Uptown Rotary Club to conduct an Adventure Race at Arrowhead Park on May 3, 2008.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of the request from the Bibb Sheriff's Office to use Sandy Beach on May 10, 2008 for the 7th Annual "Fun in the Sun" Safety Fest and ask that all fees be waived.

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

3. The Committee recommends approval of the request from the American Cancer Society to use Sandy Beach on May 2nd & 3rd, 2008 for the Annual "Relay for Life" Cancer Fund Raiser and ask that all fees be waived.

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

4. The Committee recommends approval of the request from the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce to include Lake Tobesofkee in the "Macon Discover It" program and to waive the admission fees at Claystone Park for participants in the Macon Discovery Challenge contest which will run from April 4th to April 28th.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bivins reported that a south Bibb County resident and business owner has offered to donate some flowers for the Butterfly Garden at Lake Tobesofkee. He stated that his donation will consist of three or four times the number of flowers he is planning to purchase for the garden. He thinks the business in question is Riverfront Landscaping which is the same company that did the landscaping at the new library.

Commissioner Richardson suggested putting up a sign giving the business owner credit for donating the flowers. Commissioner Bivins stated that was a good idea.

Chairman Bishop stated that Wal-Mart and some other stores donate the flowers that they have outside to different organizations.

Commissioner Bivins added that at this time of the year they have a difficult time getting things that are blooming or about to bloom early in the season and the ones that Riverfront Landscaping is providing are things that are going to be blooming now or very soon.

Chairman Bishop asked Commissioner Bivins to extend the Board's appreciation for the donation of the flowers.

In another matter, Commissioner Edwards stated that he would like to mention that at the NACo Legislative Conference held March 1 – 5 in Washington, D.C., some of the commissioners got at least one picture in the NACo publication to prove that some of them went to class.

Chairman Bishop, jokingly, asked Commissioner Edwards how much he paid to have his picture made.

On a more serious note, Commissioner Edwards stated that he would like to have some way of acting on the many good ideas that he and possibly other commissioners and the CAO picked up during the conference. He stated that there were some great ideas on things that affect this community. He suggested these things could be taken up in the Committee of the Whole, or whatever the Chairman's discretion may be. He opined that would be an excellent way of following up and seeing how some of those ideas might be of benefit to Bibb County. In particular, he stated that were some excellent ideas in the area

of emergency management and he would like to see the Board have a discussion with our Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management people to see whether or not some of those things picked up there might be implemented here.

In another matter, Commissioner Edwards stated that he thought it was good to give credit where credit is due. He stated that the County has some good employees who are filling in on an interim basis in the Human Resources Department. He stated that the Board should give them its appreciation and pledge of support as they provide leadership during this interim period of time. With that, he thanked those in attendance for the job they're doing.

On a similar note, Commissioner Bivins stated that employees from the Engineering Department helped him to get the Butterfly habitat started. He stated that they laid it out on paper how they wanted it to look and it was astounding to him to see the finished product. He added that they do outstanding work.

Chairman Bishop echoed Commissioner Bivins' sentiments and added that they are ambassadors for Bibb County. He stated they're the ones people see working everyday, especially during times of emergency and the Board does appreciate what they do.

Commissioner Edwards stated that he wanted the employees to understand that the matter they brought before the Board tonight will be referred to committee and that this is not the end of it.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board