

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 19, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom at the Bibb County Courthouse.

Board Members present were Chairman Samuel F. Hart, Sr., Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson, Jr., Commissioner Lonzy Edwards and Commissioner Joe O. Allen.

Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, was absent.

Staff in attendance was Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer; Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Sam Kitchens, Director of Buildings and Properties; Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Marilu Cowan, Director of Human Resources; Christy Iuliucci, Assistant Finance Director; Tony Rousey, IT Department; Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board, Barbara Wood, Public Relations Officer and Janice Ross, Administrative Assistant – BOC.

News media in attendance: Jennifer Burk of The Telegraph.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Dr. Aubrey Sheats, Sr., Bellevue Baptist Church, rendered the invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Hart announced that budget hearings will begin tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Hart announced that – thanks to Commissioner Bivins – department representatives were given training today on the H1N1 Flu. The representatives will go back to their respective departments and train County employees.

Chairman Hart announced that Commissioner Bivins was not here tonight because he was attending a public forum on the H1N1 Flu at Macon State College.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the Minutes of the regular monthly meeting on May 5, 2009 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Hart recognized and welcomed Mr. Dennis Floyd. Mr. Floyd addressed the Board regarding his retirement from the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department.

Chairman Hart thanked Mr. Floyd for his service to the community and advised him since his was a personnel matter, it should be directed to the City of Macon.

Chairman Hart recognized and welcomed Ms. Laura Mathis of the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) to bring the Board up-to-date as it relates to the Service Delivery Strategy.

Ms. Mathis stated that the current Service Delivery Strategy between Macon, Bibb County and the town of Payne City has a self-imposed expiration date of June 30, 2009. She stated back in January-February, they brought together the mayors, the chairman and other city and county representatives to talk about the process that they needed to through in order to keep the SDS up-to-date before June 30, 2009. She stated that she was presented to bring the Board up-to-speed as to where they are in the process. She stated they identified all of the services (*a broad scope of services*) that want to, at least, have a discussion on, like how are we providing that service, how is it being funded, is this the best way for us to provide that service and to fund that service. She stated that they prioritized the top three priorities for the staff to focus on which were: Animal Control, Engineering and funding for Cultural Programs. She stated that as directed staff then went to work on trying to come up with the mechanics of looking at the service, how it's funded, how it's provided and coming back with some recommendations. She stated that the County has been represented by Steve Layson, Deborah Martin and Ken Sheets to talk about various issues. She stated that basically what staff is trying to do is develop some templates and processes that can be applied across the Board and they are looking at services that will then be customized for the individual service. Ms. Mathis stated there's a lot to be considered when you're talking about those services and one local government being the local service provider versus the other (*e.g. everything from ordinances to employees and employee benefits all the way through to making sure the level of service that each local government wants to receive is being provided and how do you ensure that accountability*). She stated that the conversation has been productive, cooperative and she thinks they are headed in the right direction. She stated, too, that the challenge is with the current deadline of June 30th, there's a lot more work that needs to be done in order to effect any change to the SDS, to have it approved and actually amending the Strategy before June 30th. She stated based on that discussion, they are sort of at a place where they need all of the local governments to take some sort of action before June 30th related to the SDS so that it will maintain the Qualified Local Government status. She stated that's important so that everybody maintain their eligibility for grants, loans and permits. She added that it would also impact the Macon Water Authority and Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, who would be applying for various grants, loans and permits. Ms. Mathis surmised that they have made a lot of progress but there's still a lot of work to be done. She further stated that getting an extension of the current SDS to September 30, 2010 (about 16 months from now) would allow the work to continue. When questioned by Commissioner Allen, Ms. Mathis stated there are a total of 17 services they have been charged with as of today and they are taking the first three which are going to be the most difficult because they're trying to think of all the things that need to be addressed.

Commissioner Richardson made a motion to add the matter as an Action Item on tonight's agenda – to extend the Service Delivery Strategy deadline to September 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried.

Commissioner Richardson then made a motion to extend the Service Delivery Strategy deadline to September 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Hart presented a resolution to Ken Sheets, County Engineer, in recognition of "National Public Works Week" in Bibb County.

Chairman Hart thanked Ken for his leadership and for his department does for Bibb County.

At this time, Chief David Davis of the Sheriff's Office was recognized and invited to comment on the situation on Allen Road (*the dirt portion*).

Chief Davis stated that a resident on the dirt portion of Allen Road had come before the Commission with some concerns about traffic issues as well as some road issues among other things. He stated that he has met with the resident as well as Ken Sheets and they have developed a plan whereby they are going to do a traffic study on the road to determine what an adequate speed would be in that area as well as work with Ken to get some signage up for the speed limit so that people going through there will know exactly the speed limit is. He stated that they have also increase their enforcement efforts in that area with radar and a traffic monitor. He further stated that they will be presenting for approval by the Board tomorrow, during the Sheriff's budget hearing, a device that will help tremendously in situations like this. He added that the device is unobtrusive and it counts cars and tells you how fast they're going. He also added that they will use it on other roads throughout the County. Chief Davis thanked the Board for the opportunity to update the Board on what they have done to, hopefully, alleviate this problem.

Chairman Hart asked if this had been communicated to the resident.

Chief Davis responded "most certainly."

Chairman Hart thanked Chief Davis for the update.

REFERRALS: None.

RECORD AND INFORMATION: None.

ACTION:

1. Ratification of the following Resolutions of the Board of Commissioners:
 - presented to Susan Reich in recognition of her retirement from Bibb County after rendering 17 years and two months in the Probate Court; and
 - presented in recognition of "National Nursing Home Week" in Bibb County, May 10-17, 2009.

On motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned resolutions were ratified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

1. The Committee recommends that a letter be written to Mr. Andrew Ray, 1455 Johnson Road stating that there is a natural drain across his property; therefore, the County has no responsibility in the stormwater issues he addressed in his letter of March 30, 2009.

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

2. The Committee recommends that the attached list of roads be submitted to the Department of Public Safety for the use of speed detection devices by the Bibb County Sheriff's Office.

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

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Allen reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval for the chairman to sign a contract with Pyrotecnico for the July 4th fireworks display.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval to erect plaques at the two bathhouse in Arrowhead Park to commemorate the storm of May 11, 2008. The Committee further recommends that resolutions be presented to Larry Kaase, Randy Hampton and Andrea Adams for their actions on the morning of the storm.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE – No Report.

RISK MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – No Report.

ORDINANCE & RESOLUTION COMMITTEE – No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report.

MACON WATER AUTHORITY – No Report.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY – No Report.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – No Report.

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

1. The Committee recommends approval of authorization to transfer the balance of funds remaining on the Bass Pro Project to the General Fund to cover debt service on the bonds. The amount is approximately \$104,790.

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

2. The Committee recommends using approximately \$510,000 of funds remaining from the Lanford Library Project to fund renovations to the Courthouse.

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

3. The Committee recommends extending the term contract with Southern Safety Supply covering Fire Extinguisher Maintenance for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at the same unit prices.

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

4. The Committee recommends adoption of the following policy regarding routine maintenance of vehicles: All vehicles (except for the Sheriff's Office Patrol, Drug, and Warrant Divisions) will follow a 5,000 mile service interval for routine maintenance. This policy becomes effective on all routine maintenance ordered after May 19, 2009.

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

5. The Committee recommends approving Change Order #3 in the amount of \$1,630.09 from Renfroe Construction for caulking of exterior joints on both buildings regarding the contract for Renovation of Bath Houses at Arrowhead Park.

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

6. The Committee recommends extending the term contract with Trinity Services Group for Food Preparation Service for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at the same unit prices.

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

7. The Committee recommends extending the term contract with Mitchell's Automotive & Truck Repair for Vehicle Maintenance for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

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

8. The Committee recommends extending the term contract with Macon Communications for Radio Maintenance for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at the same unit prices.

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

9. The Committee recommends extending the term contract with Wilkins Office Machines for Typewriter Maintenance for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at the same unit prices.

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

10. The Committee recommends approval of authorization for Chairman Hart to sign the contracts between Bibb County and the Georgia Department of Corrections for three (3) work details for Public Works. The contracts are for the periods July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

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

11. The Committee recommends the adoption of a Resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds through the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority for approximately \$6 million for the purpose of financing courthouse improvements and architectural planning and consulting fees and other expenditures related to the Justice Center.

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

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

1. The Committee recommends approving a New 2009 alcoholic beverage license application for - Emil Inc. d/b/a Tobesofkee Lake Store located at 6024 Moseley Dixon Road.

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

2. The Committee recommends that the request from Jeff and Michelle Morris requesting the removal of a tax lien against their property be respectfully denied. The Committee further recommends waiving the interest and penalties due to the situation regarding the temporary tax bill of 2006 provided the tax bill is paid within the next 60 days.

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

3. The Committee recommends that the request from Robin Jarrell on behalf of her father Robert McCallum, Jr. that the County gives some consideration to dropping or reducing the interest charges related to the paving of McCallum Place be respectfully denied.

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

4. The Committee recommends that the request from Gary Thistlewood requesting relief of interest and penalties on several properties totaling \$1,769.19 be respectfully denied. The Committee further recommends that Mr. Thistlewood be allowed to make payments over the next 90 days.

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

5. The Committee recommends that the request from Mr. Rick Hill requesting that the County give him some consideration on the late charges and penalties on 48 lots of Oakview, Inc. and Flint River Mortgage Investments be respectfully denied. The Committee further recommends that Mr. Hill be allowed the next 120 days to make payments on the penalties and interest if the principal amount is paid immediately.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Chairman Hart reported the following:

1. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole recommending the reappointment of Myrtice Vinson to the River Edge Behavioral Health Center. Mrs. Vinson's term will be July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

On motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried the above action was ratified.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of the Board