

MINUTES

BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 1, 2008

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

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

Staff present: Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer; Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Sam Kitchens, Director of Building and Properties, 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 and Barbara Wood, Public Relations Officer.

News Media: Jennifer Burk, The Telegraph.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Reverend Jacob Parker, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, rendered the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the regular meeting Minutes of June 17, 2008 were approved as written.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried, the Minutes of the Public Hearing for the FY 2009 Budget held June 20, 2008 were approved as written.

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the Minutes of the meeting on the adoption of the Budget Resolution for FY2009 held on June 27, 2008 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors:

Wade Horton	Donald Richardson, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Boyd
Hazel Giddens	Nettie Thomas	Jack Thomas
Carol Lystlund	Susan Hanberry Martin	Lee Martin
Mary Jones	Grace Reeves	Nell Culpepper
Dr. Lindsey Holliday	Cynthia Patterson	Doug Richardson

Wade Horton addressed the Board by stating that he was disappointed with the adoption of the County budget as it was. He stated that he also wanted to thank Commissioner Bivins for voting against the budget. He stated that he was only one person representing thousands of people who have been affected by the Board's decision. He stated that he had looked at some information as it relates to the Transit Authority and in his opinion, many of the people who go to the Medical Center do so on the buses. He added if the buses are not convenient for them and they have to go to the hospital, they are going to take an ambulance which is \$750.00 minimum. He stated if 266.6 people ride the bus to go to the hospital that's over \$200,000.00 that will have to come out of the Medical Center's budget. He further suggested that the County consider allocating funds from unallocated resources to adequately fund the Transit Authority for the good of the community rather than providing for a select few.

Mrs. D.M. Boyd addressed the Board by stating that they (*residents of Forest Hill Road*) were asking just one more time for the County to consider scaling back the plan for Forest Hill Road. She stated that they have begged for a safer design, a design that would carry a 35 mph speed limit; they have begged for a design that maintains the integrity and beautify of their neighborhood, a design that wouldn't be a magnet for more traffic which they feel the present County design would do. She stated, and then, they don't know what would happen to other areas like Vineville Avenue and Ridge Avenue, a wonderful little neighborhood with small wonderful little houses that are well kept, but they can't take two more streets, two more lanes without ruining that street. She stated that they had talked with one person in particular who is educated and experienced in designing neighborhood friendly roads and highways, those that will meet the criteria and those that they want. She continued that safety and integrity are the things they are begging for more than anything else. She continued that they feel like the County's design can be redesigned at a whole lot less cost than some might think. In conclusion, she asked the Board to give it some time and because she is a Christian person, she asked that they give it some prayer, too.

Jack Thomas addressed the Board by stating that he has drawn a sketch of where he lives (*209 Forest Hill Road*) and wanted the Board to see how the design would affect him and other residents of Forest Hill Road. He stated that, if any of the commissioners were interested in coming out and taking a look, he would be more than happy to show them what he was talking about. He stated that the way it is slated to be done now is beyond comprehension.

Chairman Bishop responded that he doesn't know what plans Mr. Thomas had reviewed. He also asked him if he had been down and talked to Moreland Altobelli. Chairman Bishop then asked Ken Sheets to get with Mr. Thomas and make sure that he is getting the right information and ask Moreland Altobelli to sit down with Mr. Thomas and talk to him about it.

Chairman Bishop pointed out that the issue is in mediation right now and that the commissioners are not involved in the mediation.

Mr. Thomas continued that when this came up ten years ago, the purpose of widening Forest Hill Road was so that people could get to the Colonial Mall which he stated is almost closed because it's in poor shape. He added that, going out to the new mall (*The Shoppes at River Crossing*) millions of dollars have been spent widening Riverside Drive. He continued that gasoline has gone to \$4.00 a gallon in the last ten years and he heard on the news that there will be 300,000 less cars on the road next year and, so, there's going to be less traffic, less people going to the mall and he doesn't understand why they still want to build this four-lane highway through there when it's going to be less traffic. He added that it was ludicrous and that the Bibb County is losing people to all of the surrounding counties; the City has dropped from 115,000 to 95,000 and he just wonders whether anybody ever questions why or what's driving people out. He concluded that it was this kind of thing.

REFERRALS:

The following item was referred to **Engineering/Public Works Committee:**

1. Correspondence from Jim Wells, President, SPP Commercial Group, LLC, requesting that Bibb County install a traffic signal at Bass and Bowman Roads.

RECORD AND INFORMATION:

1. Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: Clerk, State Court.

ACTION:

Ratification of the following resolutions:

- presented to JoAnn Anderson in recognition of her retirement from Bibb County after rendering 17 plus years of service in the Engineering Department;
- presented to Lynn Cass in recognition of her many contributions to Macon and Bibb County and specifically, in appreciation of her leadership and dedication as Executive Director of the Macon Arts Alliance;
- presented to the parents of Sr. Airman Jason Dorian Nathan during a special ceremony on June 23, 2008 at Macon City Hall in memory of his great sacrifice for his family, his country, and for freedom. **Note:** *Sr. Airman Nathan served in the 332nd Air Expedition Wing of the U.S. Air Force stationed in Iraq where he paid the ultimate sacrifice when his life ended on June 23, 2007; and*

- Presented in recognition of the partnership between the Macon-Bibb County Health Department and Bibb County Human Resources to provide health information to employees and the general public as a part of Bibb County's Health Wise Initiatives and specifically, designating June 27, 2008 as "National HIV Testing Day" in Bibb County.

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 Bivins reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the petitions to register Welsh Trail, Shire Boulevard, Shetland Court and Shetland Pines Drive be approved and that said roads be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by County forces.

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

2. The Committee recommends that the County Attorney draw up the necessary quit claim deed to convey to Christy and Todd Gay whatever interest the County may have in unused right-of-way between 4401 and 4381 Chick-a-dee Lane.

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

3. The Committee recommends that the petition to register St. Martinique Drive be approved and that said road be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by County forces.

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

4. The Committee recommends that the petition to register Ryan Drive be approved and that said road be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by County forces.

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

5. The Committee reports that bids were received on June 25, 2008, for Macon-Bibb Welcome Signs at four locations, RIP68-2, and that the low responsive bidder was Sheets Construction Company with a total bid of \$19,480. The Committee recommends that award be made to Sheets Construction Company at the unit prices bid and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the contract as soon as satisfactory bonds have been furnished.

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 approved the New 2008 Alcoholic Beverage License for Corky Bell's Seafood and Steaks located at 103 Riverside Parkway.

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

2. The Committee approved Sunday Sales for Sticky Ribhouse, LLC d/b/a Sticky Fingers located at 5080 Riverside Drive #1700.

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

3. The Committee approved the New 2008 Alcoholic Beverage License for N Store d/b/a/ Eats – n – Sweets located at 5407-5409 Houston 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 that the millage rate for Tax Year 2008 be rolled back by two (2) mills. The Finance Committee further recommends the approval of a Supplemental Appropriation to the FY 2009 SPLOST Debt Service Fund in the amount of \$7,589,230.00 for transfer to the General Fund.

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

2. The Committee recommends extending the term contract for Typewriter Maintenance to Wilkins Office Machines for the term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 with all terms and conditions of the existing contract remaining the same.

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

3. The Committee recommends extending the term contract for Printing to The Print Shop for the term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 with an average increase of 1.25% and all other terms and conditions of the existing contract remaining the same.

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

4. The Committee recommends amending the original award, dated 6/3/08, to read:
The Finance Committee recommends awarding the term contract for Natural Gas to SCANA Energy for the term of July 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009 by utilizing the State of Georgia contract, currently priced at NYMEX plus \$0.0618 per therm plus \$7.20 times the DDDC per account per month and a service charge of \$3.95 per account per month, and subject to renegotiation by the State of Georgia.

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

5. The Committee recommends awarding the bid for Computer Paper to Office Depot at the unit prices bid for the term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – No Report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE – No Report.

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – No Report.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

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

At the request of Ms. Carol Lystlund, 730 Forest Hill Road, the meeting was re-adjourned to hear her comments which include the following:

“There are some things I want to say prior to the Election. It’s actually not in my character to call names or to embarrass anyone. I try very hard not to do that. If I’ve got a beef with you or I’ve got something I need to discuss with you, I’m going to come and talk to you about it privately. And I have asked over and over and over for two things and I’ve got it documented right here that on 11-21-06, I asked for this. 12-06-07 I asked for this and again on 02-21-08. I’ve asked for it many other times but those are just the ones that I could my fingers on the documentation today. I asked that Moreland Altobelli, along with the county commissioners plan a community-wide meeting. I just received an email today from someone and they have absolutely no idea what this project is going to mean or what it’s going to be like. The community-wide meetings we had right after the SPLOST was passed – people have moved, people have come in and out and there are so many folks that, really, are clueless about this whole project. In fact, I wonder if I asked each of you to tell me what you think this project is all about-how would you describe it. I’m not going to do that at this time, but it would be interesting to know even your interpretations of it because I realize there is a lot of business that you have to handle on a weekly and monthly basis, but I think we have been talking about Forest Hill Road for long enough. We all need to be as up-to-date as possible on what it’s going to mean to the community. The other thing that I asked for was that someone give me just 15 minutes of their time so that I could show them areas on Forest Hill Road that I thought from my little person point of view. I am not an engineer; I’m not a contractor but I’ve driven on many roads in many towns around the world and I feel like I can look at something. I think I’ve got enough common sense to look at a road and say, well, why won’t this work or why won’t this work or why can’t we do this? And no one, out of all of those documented times plus all the other times – it will be two years in November – I’ve been begging for those two things – somebody to ride down that road with me and talk to me about it and that we have that community meeting, and nobody has made any effort, whatsoever, to get together with me. And I realize that if all 95,000 people in Macon ask y’all to give them 15 minutes of your time that would be an impossibility, but I’ve never asked for you to give me your time before except in public meetings like this and I feel that I’m a taxpaying citizen that’s lived here a long, long time and that I deserve an opportunity to have one of our public servants listen to the concerns that I have and let me show them some of the things. And that will definitely have an impact on how I vote on the 15th, because I want somebody in position on this Board that I can trust to listen to me and except in meetings like this, I haven’t seen that occur and that is very discouraging to me as a taxpaying citizen. So, that’s how I relate the election to Forest Hill Road. We’ve consistently asked to see those plans; we consistently asked to have that community meeting that just hasn’t happened and I’m very discouraged, but it’s not too late for y’all to do something about it; it’s not too late for y’all to change what’s going on here. Regardless of how the money is going to be spent; regardless of whether we lose the money, I think there are other things that are, by far, more important than using that money for that particular project. I think it’s wasteful; I think it’s misguided; I think we are abandoning the old, that we are favoring the new. We are replacing historic buildings in historic areas with acres and acres of asphalt and concrete. Is that the kind of city I want to live in? No, it is not! Riding cuts down on exercise. The less exercise leads to obesity; less play time leads to television. The energy and efficiency versus loss of energy, health and safety standards versus noncompliance; quality versus quantity; leadership versus vision versus the same old way over and over again. Are we looking at quality of life for Macon; are we looking for a good education program for Macon; are we looking for a quality of education and a quality of environment? I think we are. I think we need to reinvest in some of our historic areas that exist as they do now. Roads will be coming in. Yes, they will, but what are people going to find when they come in on these roads? They are going to find multi-lane roads leading to nowhere except concrete and folks in abandoned areas, and one dead shopping center after another. Thank you.”

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board