

**MINUTES
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

September 18, 2007

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Mr. Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Mr. Tony Rousey, Director of Information & Technology Services; Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board; Mrs. Christy Iuliucci, Assistant Finance Director; Mrs. Janice Ross, Board of Commissioners; Mrs. Bell Wall, Human Resources and Mrs. Sherrie Sawyer, Engineering.

News Media:

Keich Whicker, The Telegraph
Chace Ambrose, FOX 24

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed Reverend James Goolsby, Jr., Pastor of First Baptist Church, for the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bishop presented a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director, and members of her staff. The certificate is for the County's fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 and is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the 23rd year Bibb County has received this prestigious award.

Ms. Martin responded that her staff was the reason Bibb County receives the award.

Chairman Bishop presented a Certificate of Service Award to Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer, representing his ten (10) years of service to Bibb County.

Chairman Bishop presented a Certificate of Service Award to Commissioner Elmo Richardson representing his five (5) years of service on the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Bishop entertained a motion from the Board to cancel or postpone the regularly scheduled meeting of October 2nd due to the commissioners attending the ACCG Fall Policy Conference in Atlanta during that time.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried, the October 2nd Commissioners meeting was canceled.

Chairman Bishop announced that today is Election Day to fill the District One Commission seat. He encouraged those who lived in that district to go out and cast their vote and stated that the polls would be open until 7:00 p.m. tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2007 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors:

Carol Lystlund	Susan Long	Walker Rivers
Victor Jones	Cynthia Patterson	Dan Zachman
Carolyn Talbot	Judy Bunge	John Earley
C. Walker	Al Bond	Jim Bodell
Yvette Hickey	Ronald Cloud	Clint Cloud
Virginia Cloud	Marie M. Holliday	B. Crucilla
Kathleen Peterson	Lindsay Holliday	Ronald Cloud
Susan Martin	Nancy Hathaway	Mary C. Holloway
Nettie Thomas	Johnnie Mae Dawkins	Doreen Hansard
Nora McFarland	Fernella Cabey	Yvette Cabey
Lisa Lemon	Agnes Bikus	Nancy Van Etten
Russell Boston	Dorothy Gray	Stephen L. Jukes
Lisa Carrington	Earlean Lewis	Pamela Walker
Terry Simmons	Greg Simmons	Troy Edwards
Jack Castle	Donald Richardson, Jr.	Hazel Giddens
Sandra Cochran	Ayesha Thornton	Ken Neely
Dolores R. Walden	Grace Reeves	Nell Culpepper
Jean Sullivan	Mary H. Jones	Brian Joynt
Larry D. Bunge	Keith Peterson	Ron Lemon
Lee Martin	Steven Turner	Alice Boyd
Red Boyd	Susan Hanberry Martin	Clifford Johnson

Chairman Bishop recognized Ms. Cynthia Patterson for comments which included the following:

“Some of us are here today to learn the results of Mr. Adams’ research into the matter of whether the commissioners have the authority to amend the Forest Hill Road project. If it turns out that you do indeed have this authority, I would like to make a proposal that we schedule a meeting between the parties of interest in order to work out a plan that would be to the advantage of all. Citizens have spent the last ten years trying to communicate the

problems with the design plan, how it will destroy the neighborhood and make the road unsafe for residents, students and all who travel on it. We believe that it's now time for us to move forward and to resolve some of these problems."

Next, Chairman Bishop recognized Mr. Victor Jones for comments which included the following:

"I'm here to request y'all to redesign the Forest Hill Road project, from the Rosa Taylor area, Riverside Park and Tiffin Circle neighborhood watch groups. We support our Forest Hill neighbors. We understand y'all had a meeting in Atlanta yesterday. And the article that Mr. Whicker wrote was less than encouraging on our efforts. I don't think it was a thorough and detailed article. I put in an open records request for the meeting minutes of yesterday's meeting. Do you have those here?"

Chairman Bishop responded: "We don't keep minutes for the Department of Transportation in Atlanta."

Mr. Jones continued: "Did you have a clerk or secretary with you up there?"

Chairman Bishop responded: "This was a meeting with the state legislators and the Department of Transportation that we were invited to."

Mr. Jones continued: "You're still conducting the people's business behind the curtain and we'll go through GDOT channels to get minutes of the meeting to get the thorough details. About two weeks ago, I requested a tree survey from Chief County Administrator Layson and the survey was done by Stantec Engineering of which Commissioner Richardson has been a principal in the past. I'm not sure of the current status of it now. Pictures indicate the tree survey of Forest Hill was at least started in June of 2006. As of this report, September 2007, the tree survey is incomplete, yet Mr. Whicker's article quoted y'all as knowing how many trees were going to be cut from this project and I don't see how you can ascertain that. I put in another open records request with Mr. Layson requesting the competitive bid process that went into the tree survey and other engineering aspects of Forest Hill Road to see which engineering companies put in bids to help the competitive atmosphere to save the taxpayers money on the project. And I will expect that, I guess, Thursday."

Mr. Layson responded: "I have not received the request. The Chairman told me there was one and I checked my computer and I have not received it."

Mr. Jones continued: "So, Thursday, we will have that information."

Mr. Layson responded again: "I have not received the request."

Mr. Jones continued: "Mr. Bishop, I would like a brief, verbal and written summary of your memory of yesterday's meeting in Atlanta with GDOT Linnenkohl."

Chairman Bishop responded: "This is for public comments."

Mr. Jones continued: "We're here to talk about the Forest Hill Road project, Mr. Bishop, and if you want to keep it behind closed doors, indeed the people's business in the dark, you can try but we are going to open records you out into the sunlight. You've had six opportunities to

redesign this project over the last then years. You have neglected to do that. You deserve to lose your job.”

Chairman Bishop responded: “Thank you.”

Next, Chairman Bishop recognized Mr. Walker Rivers for comments which included the following:

“I live on High Street in the Intown Neighborhood and I’m here, today, speaking on behalf of my neighborhood association in support of the Forest Hill neighbors to our north. I moved to Macon in 1984. And I’ve been there long enough to see that neighborhood come back and what brought it back were neighbors – dedicated neighbors who loved where they lived and loved their neighborhood. And I can tell you, now, between Mercer University and Riverside Drive, you guys collect a bucket load of tax money that wasn’t there in 1984, and it’s because there’s a strong, vibrant neighborhood there. Anything that this community has that’s of value pales in comparison to the value of its neighborhoods. I can’t imagine trying to entice a company to come and locate in our community and not be able to offer them a decent place for their employees to live. I think that’s part of the problem we have in Bibb County. The neighborhoods that we have, that are already nice, that don’t need the great efforts to rebuild certainly should be preserved, protected and encouraged anyway they can. It’s our greatest asset in this community. Now, in the Intown neighborhood, we had our share of problems with the roads program in the early days. There were a number of projects that were over-designed and would have been an over-build for the traffic problems that they were addressing. Fortunately, for us, we were able to get those projects modified. We had some alternative ideas that came up that worked. You can drive through Intown now and you’ll find out that the traffic is flowing just great, and they didn’t have to make these wide road improvements on streets that were going through quiet neighborhoods. And we’re very thankful that we were that fortunate. Now, we look to our neighbors to the North on Forest Hill Road and we see the same problems besetting that neighborhood. We found that the information that was driving the size of the designs which was basically traffic count information, everybody was supposed to take it at face value. I think these traffic counts are often overblown to justify projects and in our case, those traffic numbers have never materialized in our neighborhood and I doubt seriously that they’ll materialize in the Forest Hill Road neighborhood. And my neighbors sent me here today to speak on behalf of another neighborhood in Macon. We think any neighborhood that has an identity, that’s a great place for people to live which provides a quality of life for citizens in this county. It’s something that needs to be predicted and I think it’s the function of the government to consider that strongly in the decision that they make. I realize that only a couple of you were on the commission back at the time that the SPLOST was passed but our research a number of years ago when problematic projects popped up was that the SPLOST was advertised through a series of public hearings. A series of projects were trotted out to the public for their review. A month after the vote was cast and you were given authority to conduct a road improvement program, a different list emerged on the table. Projects that no neighborhood had ever seen, that nobody in a public hearing had ever seen, were somehow now in the mix. And this is the residue of that bait and switch that we have here today. And as badly as this community needs improvement, it’s just going to get harder to use a SPLOST to generate the revenue when that type activity goes on. I think it would be a show of good faith if this commission would listen to alternative engineering suggestions and study them diligently and consider amending that project and changing its design.”

Next, Chairman Bishop recognized Ms. Susan Long for comments which included the following:

"I'm President of the Vineville Neighborhood Association. I live on Buford Place in the Vineville Historic District. It has been reported that only a small number of activists here in Macon are opposed to the plans for Forest Hill Road and is definitely not true. Our neighborhood which has a thousand homes represented by the Vineville Neighborhood Association very much supports the residents of Forest Hill and their plans to stop this very destructive plan for their neighborhood. Our neighborhood association works very hard to maintain a quality intercity neighborhood and we really understand how the people on Forest Hill feel about maintaining their neighborhood and we're concerned that once this widening occurs that we'll see a lot of these houses go commercial, like the lower end of Vineville; Ridge Avenue will be next and it's just really not pro quality neighborhoods for Macon. It's really not good for the city of Macon for this plan to proceed, and it's not too late to turn back and you'll be heroes for all of us who love Macon and support our neighborhoods."

Next, Chairman Bishop recognized Ms. Carol Lystlund (*who was dressed as a tree*) for comments which included the following:

"I'm a tree, a very sad, sad tree. There are people who want to cut me down and take me away from my home land. I've lived in the same forest all of my life; I live there with a very large number of other tree family members and tree friends; I am well taken care of and I love living in our forest; I'm loved by everyone in our neighborhood, by the squirrels that climb and jump from limb to limb, the chipmunks and deer that romp and play, the birds, butterflies and bumblebees that fly around and rest on my limbs, the children, the children's children and the children's children children who come and play and swing on my limbs. There are many native creatures there whose habitat will be destroyed by the destruction of the forest. So, today, I am very, very sad. From the article in today's Telegraph about the recent meeting of our local politicians in Atlanta with the legislators, it appears that some individuals are being vindictive toward us. What we feel is being forced on us could be forced on any community in this entire county. I think it appears that some want to, perhaps, punish us. We've discovered questionable information and the result of that, it seems to be a determination to 'get us' for discovering that information. There seems to be that same determination to beat us in our efforts to continue the plans for the road that is not needed and the road that will lead to nowhere on the west side of town. Contrary to the statement in today's Telegraph, we do not believe that the project is and I quote, 'justified'. Show me enough evidence to justify that massive and that overbuilt project. It will take years to build a neighborhood, and any traffic that chooses to use that route in the same predicament as we were doing with that very lengthy widening process on Northside Drive as well as what's going on on Riverside Drive. I was going down Riverside Drive on my way to meet someone at Crackel Barrel and I spent half of my lunch hour just trying to get to Crackel Barrel and my workplace is not that far away. I eventually turned around in the apartment complex and went the other way. And this is just the beginning of that process, and this on Forest Hill Road, what is currently being suggested and being planned, will take even longer to get it taken care of. I've said it over and over again that I will never ever vote for another SPLOST and I don't care how good the cause is, I will not do that. I really mean it. And the project wording was misleading as has already been said tonight. And what is there to make me believe there would ever be and truth about the wording of any SPLOST in the future. There will always be that loophole so that whoever wants to get their way and their thing accomplished can do so. This is not fair; this is not honest; this is not truthful; this is not the correct way to proceed. It is just a bunch of folks in political positions

who are not getting the right information to the public and the result is that we feel that our trees, our neighborhoods, our safety on foot and our safety in vehicles is being stolen from us. This is not justice; this is not fair; this is not listening to the desires of the voters. We as voters will remember this during the next election and I will personally remember it for all elections to come. Watch out Macon, watch out Bibb County – your trees, your safety, your neighborhood could be next. Bass Road, you are not safe from destruction. Pierce Avenue, you are not safe. Foster Road, you are not safe. Other major arteries, you are not safe. Look at Riverside Drive; Look at Mercer University Drive; Look at Columbus Road, Zebulon Road and Pio Nono Avenue. When I was younger, these were residential neighborhoods as Forest Hill Road is for us today. Remember, your neighborhood could be next. Be citizens that are aware; be citizens that are alert; be citizens that are informed. We must stand together. Thank all of you who have come in our support, from all sections of town, not just from the north side of town, but all sections of town because you realize this is an unfair, unjust, pushed upon us project that nobody in the neighborhood wants. We must stand together as voters, property owners and taxpayers. We must stand strong and stand together, like trees, for what is just, fair and what is the right thing to do. And I urge you, our commissioners, to do your part to help show us, the community, that you are concerned about our concerns, not just the pride of the moment of not wanting to step back in time to what your original plan was. We urge you to consider our feelings and our desires in these neighborhoods.”

Next, Chairman Bishop called on the Clerk of the Board for the reading of the Board Agenda.

REFERRALS:

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

Correspondence from Mr. Brent Story, Department of Transportation, inquiring as to whether Bibb County is still interested in proceeding with project consisting of the Bibb County lighting assistance for I-75 at SR 87/US Riverside Drive Interchange Exit 171.

RECORD AND INFORMATION:

NONE.

ACTION:

1. Ratification of Resolution designating September 6, 2007 as “Marquis de Lafayette Day in Bibb County.
2. Ratification of Resolution congratulating Pine Forest Baptist Church on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

1. With regards to the request of Waterford Place residents that the County provide assistance with a drainage problem, the Committee recommends that the County Engineer be authorized to prepare a detailed design of an area detention pond and to contact property owners regarding land acquisition for the pond. The Committee further recommends approval of the engineering design by Cunningham & Company for increased detention on the development adjacent to Waterford Place known as The Villas at Rivoli.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of the resolutions to authorize certain proceedings in eminent domain for Parcel Nos. 165, 188, 189, 191, 193, 202, 206 and 207, Houston Avenue, Project RIP#36, for the purpose of acquiring right-of-way and temporary construction easements.

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

3. The Committee recommends that the request for \$16,300.00 in additional expenditures for the John Drew Smith Tennis Center be approved as follows:

Handicap rails	\$ 1,500.00
Ice Machine	\$ 1,300.00
Storage Shed	\$ 1,500.00
Irrigation	\$ 6,000.00
Additional landscaping	\$ 6,000.00

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

4. The Committee recommends that the Phase I Environmental Assessment for the railroad property on Riverside Drive at MLK Blvd. be accepted and that the County not proceed with the Phase II Assessment.

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

5. The Committee recommends approval of Change Order No. 2 for the South Bibb Library to allow for a fire hydrant tap.

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

6. The Committee recommends that the petitions to register Liberty Trace and Liberty Ridge Drive in Liberty Ridge Subdivision 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.

7. The Committee recommends that the petitions to register Eagle Ridge, Eagle's Point, Golden Oak Drive, McClain Circle, Oakview Club Drive, Peach Blossom Place, Players Point, Southern Oaks Drive, Spy Glass Hill and Trenton Terrace in Oakview Subdivision 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.

8. The Committee recommends approval of the ordinance to certify that the FY2004 special drainage and paving district is complete and to authorize collection of assessments in said district consisting of Breeze Street, Riverbend Court, Frederick Drive, Stallworth Drive, Britt Road and Nisbet Place.

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

9. The Committee recommends approval of the ordinance to certify that the FY2005 special drainage and paving district is complete and to authorize collection of assessments in said district consisting of Ronald Avenue and Casablanca Drive.

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

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE – No Report.

MACON WATER AUTHORITY – No Report.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – No Report.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY – No Report.

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

1. The Committee recommends the authorization for the Chairman to sign contracts for FY2008: *Valuation of Bibb County Government's Health Care Plan, Worker's Compensation Plan and Pension Plan.*

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

2. The Committee recommends accepting Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia as Bibb County's Health Plan Administrator to administer our healthcare plan (*i.e. Medical, Dental, Vision, Prescription Drugs, and Employee Assistance Program, effective January 1, 2008*) This is with the understanding that the existing Bibb County Government Summary Plan Description (SPD), Plan Design, Prescription Drug Plan, and all deviations are agreed to by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, no later than September 28, 2007.

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

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

1. The Committee recommends that Bibb County retain the services of the Benefits Law Group to write the OPEB Trust for Bibb County and authorizes Chairman Bishop to sign the necessary documents to retain these services.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of new rates per sq. ft. for space leased from Bibb County and that the new rates become effective July 1, 2008.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved by a three-to-one (3-1) vote. Commissioner Allen cast the dissenting vote.

3. Finance Committee recommends awarding the Term Contract for Toner Cartridges to Veterans Imaging Products, Inc. for the term of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 at the unit prices bid.

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

4. The Committee recommends awarding the proposal for Vehicle Maintenance and Repair to Mitchell's Automotive at the unit prices bid for the term of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. The Committee further recommends that Goodwill Automotive Service Center be considered for routine maintenance needs.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Committee Member Richardson reported the following:

1. The Risk Management Committee recommends the approval for Mr. Mark Davis to take the Bibb County Maintenance truck home (*solely for the performance of his job duties --- “**On Call**”*) and classify his assignment as Exclusive-Restricted.

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

2. The Risk Management Committee recommends approval of the 2008 County Vehicle Listing and referral to Finance for implementation. (Copy attached)

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Chairman Bishop reported the following:

1. The Committee of the Whole voted to appoint Commissioner Elmo Richardson and Ms. Myrtice Vinson to the River Edge Community Service Board. *Chairman Bishop noted that the item was being presented for ratification by the Board.*

On motion of Chairman Bishop and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved by a three-to-one (3-1) vote. Commissioner Allen cast the dissenting vote.

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Allen reported the following:

1. The Tobesofkee Committee recommends approval of the request to lower the lake level six (6) feet from December 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008.

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

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report:

COUNTY ATTORNEY – No Report.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Commissioner Allen stated that it was his understanding that the Chairman and others had a meeting which was perfectly alright with him because anything they could do to try to help the people on Forest Hill Road was totally appropriate. He stated

that this past Friday he met with Mr. Walker, along with Ms. Lauren Benedict and Ms. White and one of the citizens from Forest Hill Road and that it was their understanding from Mr. Walker that he was to have a meeting yesterday or today with members of the Senate as well as members from the Board of Commissioners. He stated that Mr. Walker indicated that he understood the needs of the people of this community and that he wanted to do what the people of this community has requested. He stated Ms. White nor Ms. Benedict was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a conflict with their City Council meeting. Commissioner Allen then pointed to someone in the back of the room and asked him/her if that was what he/she understood to have happened at the meeting. The response was in concurrence. Commissioner Allen stated that he left with the understanding that Mr. Walker would contact him today. He then asked everyone to keep Mr. Walker and his family in their prayers because of a death in his family. He then stated that Mr. Walker did contact him to let him know that they did meet and that there are alternatives that can be made. Commissioner Allen stated that was basically what Mr. Walker said and then added that he was under a lot of stress at the particular time after reading what was in the newspaper. He stated that the main concern of this conversation, right now, is that he asked a question two weeks ago and that he would ask it again of the County Attorney. His question was as follows:

“Mr. County Attorney, after your research, is it not correct that this Board can reduce or stop the Forest Hill Road project?”

Mr. Adams responded as follows: “The Board can”.

Citizens in the audience applauded.

Commissioner Allen then stated that as Chairman of the Ordinance and Resolution Committee, he would like to ask that, in light of the attorney’s findings, the Board of Commissioners look at downsizing the scope of the Forest Hill Road project to what Mr. Walker has proposed. He added that they do have plans now in Atlanta and most of them deal with exactly what the Chairman and other members of the Board of Commissioners wanted (*i.e. turn signals, street lights and sidewalks*) which would be a safety factor in changing some of the street design. He further stated that it would not be a four or five lane highway, but there would be turn signals where there would be turn lanes to go into other off streets.

Commissioner Allen then asked if each of the commissioners would give his request consideration and bring back a report to the Board within 30 days.

Chairman Bishop stated that he was not clear on what Commissioner Allen was asking.

Commissioner Allen then stated that he would like to ask that the Chairman get back with Mr. Larry Walker and the others about downsizing Forest Hill Road the way it should be. He stated that they do not have to cut down all of the trees and that he was told this by Mr. Walker today and that there are things that can be downsized, and that they do not have to go with the original concept that’s there now.

Commissioner Richardson responded that those items were discussed and agreed to. Chairman Bishop concurred and added that they were already included in the plans and there was also an invitation to anybody that lived in that area to go down to Moreland Altobelli and look at the plans for revitalization and beautification that has been worked on by the neighborhood association sometime during the community meetings.

Mr. Lee Martin interjected from the back of the room that that was not true.

Chairman Bishop responded that Mr. Martin was out of order and that he was merely relaying what he was asked to tell the people. He then restated that Moreland Altobelli has offered the citizens to come and review the plans. He stated that either the plans or there are they're not. Chairman Bishop added that anyone interested in reviewing the plans needed to call ahead. He also stated that they could see some renderings of the beautification projects.

Commissioner Allen stated that he is just hoping the Board can resolve this without having so many people come down here who are dissatisfied with what the Board is doing.

Chairman Bishop stated that Mr. Walker was at the meeting and read off a list of four (4) items to the people who were there. He stated that one of the things was traffic lights.

Commissioner Allen stated the other things were turn lanes and sidewalks (for traffic calming).

Chairman Bishop responded that he did not hear Mr. Walker mention anything about traffic calming.

Commissioner Allen responded that was due to the way the traffic light were.

Chairman Bishop then stated that the citizens were welcome to look at any record at the County anytime they wanted.

Ms. Boyd interjected that they were not really interested in that record. She stated that the County Attorney had told them what they want to hear and what they want to hear from the Board is that they care about what they want.

The audience again applauded.

Chairman Bishop reiterated that anyone who wanted to could go to Moreland Altobelli and review the master plan where they could see exactly what the footprint shows. He then stated that he didn't know if any of the citizens had found how intrusive it is.

Several of the citizens responded that they knew.

Chairman Bishop stated that the public comment period was over for tonight. And he added that Commissioner Allen wanted to make a statement about what went on in Atlanta and that he wanted to correct it for the record. He then added that Commissioner Larry Walker did exactly what he said he was going to do. He presented the information to GDOT and it was addressed by the engineers. He stated, basically, that's all that happened.

Mr. Martin interjected again that the landscaping plan was never approved by the neighborhood and that that statement needed to be retracted.

Chairman Bishop stated that he had not said it was approved by the neighborhood but was rather a plan that was submitted by people in that neighborhood.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin interjected in disagreement and stated that it was on record. Mr. Martin added that Susan was a member of the stake holder's committee and it was never approved by the neighborhood.

Ms. Boyd interjected additional comments that she had been to Moreland Altobelli and saw what is happening in front of her house and it was so much worse than anything she thought it would be, even a raised median so that when she comes out of her driveway, she can even make a left turn. She stated that it was ridiculous and that she couldn't understand how the Board could do that to them.

Ms. Lystlund asked for permission to speak and then stated that she thinks Moreland Altobelli owes it to them, with all of the money that has been paid to them, to have town hall meetings like they did several years because there have been people that have moved into the neighborhood that don't have a clue about what's going on. She stated that those who are in attendance are long timers and have been following this for a long time. She stated that she really feels it's the responsibility of Moreland Altobelli to come forward and show them exactly what they have and if they've revised it in the last week, it needs to be shown and it needs be open to the public.

Chairman Bishop responded that the Board can make that suggestion to Moreland Altobelli.

Ms. Lystlund then asked if he would make that suggestion to them.

Chairman Bishop responded that he thinks Moreland Altobelli is receptive to showing them exactly what they've got on the table.

Chairman Bishop then stated that the Board can ask them to do that. And he stated that this is part of a \$50 million Northwest Connector and certain parts of it, Bibb County accepts responsibility for. He added that Bibb County did the design work several times and over \$2 million has been spent on that. He stated there is no more local design money and the only thing they can do now is lose \$50 million in federal and state funds to improve the streets in the City. He continued that this was not a County project, but a City project and the County had it managed through Moreland Altobelli and there were 15 major thoroughfares that were supposed to be improved originally. Chairman Bishop added that this was fiscal 2009 money and people in other counties would love to have it.

Commissioner Allen stated that he would like to make one final comment before the close of the meeting. His comment was as follows: "I've asked the County Attorney, if we can't try to help them, I'd rather just stop it, bottom line."

There was applause from the audience.

Commissioner Allen then called for the meeting to be adjourned.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board