

**MINUTES**  
**BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 5, 2006**  
**6:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Vice Chairman Samuel F. Hart, Sr., 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. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Tony Rousey, Director, Information & Technology Services; Mr. Tommy Brown, Human Resources Director; Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board; and Mrs. Barbara Wood, Public Affairs.

News Media: None.

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed Reverend James H. Crafter, Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Bishop reminded everyone that today was Election Day and stated that he hoped everyone had cast their vote.

Chairman Bishop announced that the County Employees' Christmas Party is Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Edgar's, Goodwill Conference Center, located across from Macon State College and that it starts at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Bishop announced that the Hearing for the Board of Tax Assessors is Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom. County Attorney Adams asked if the Commissioners could meet prior to the Hearing at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Bishop announced that the Board of Commissioners' Christmas Reception is Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom and he reminded the Commissioners to be present to help welcome their guests.

Chairman Bishop announced that, before the meeting, Mr. Wright Tilley had brought the Yoshino Cherry Tree seedlings and 2007 Fine Art Print, *by artist Steve Penley*, at each Board members desk.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 21, 2006 and Called Emergency Meeting of November 29, 2006 were approved as written.***

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors: Mr. Jack Head, Ms. Hazel Giddens, Mr. William Maurice Maxwell, Mr. Donald H. Richardson, Jr., Mr. Ray Smith, Ms. Annette Maxwell, Ms. Cynthia Patterson, Dr. Lindsay Holliday, Ms. Colleen Giffin, Mr. Al Bond, Ms. Johnnie Mae Dawkins, Ms. Nettie Thomas, Ms. Susan Long, Ms. Nell Culpepper, Ms. Judy Godfrey, Red and Alice Boyd, Ms. Edith Graves, Mr. Lee Martin, Mr. Ronald Cloud, and Ms. Patsy Guy Fried.

Ms. Fried addressed the Board. An excerpt of her comments is as follows:

“I live at 655 Forest Hill Road. I’ve been there since 1952 and I seen a lot of changes. I know a lot of cars go up and down Forest Hill Road at certain times. What you have proposed to do is cut down all our trees. I live far enough back from the road that it will not affect me, noise wise or other wise, but I sure would hate to lose my trees. And I think everybody on Forest Hill Road feels the same way. If you ride out there and see the yellow ribbons, you will know that we mean business. I can’t see you turning Forest Hill Road into Vineville Avenue with three lanes. And I can’t see you putting in a turn off for certain roads because we don’t have that many to turn off on. I would really ask your consideration in not doing this as you planned. Mr. Bishop, I wrote you a letter and told you how I felt and Elmo, you ought to know how I feel too, as well as Mr. Allen.”

Chairman Bishop thanked Ms. Fried for her comments.

Mr. Cloud addressed the Board. An excerpt of his comments is as follows:

“I live on Forest Hill Terrace. I have a son who has been at Lane Elementary for five years. I appreciate your support and your commitment to rebuild the dilapidated infrastructure of Houston Avenue. There’s a brand new Bruce Elementary School opened now and it’s a stark contrast to a neglected road that fronts it and Houston Avenue is just crying out to be fixed. There’s much work to be done on Houston Avenue and the funding for doing the job right has not been secured. Citizens who have pleaded for preservation of the valuable residential and natural qualities of Forest Hill Road have decided Houston Avenue’s needs are a priority. The point that the County government ought to repair one neighborhood in need of revitalization rather than damage another neighborhood which is worth preserving in tact is a responsible and compelling position. When considering the merits of the Forest Hill Road project, I cannot identify any economic or public use development needs of the County as a whole that out way the wishes of the residents to be secured in their property. In fact, changing the nature of Forest Hill Road will debase Macon-Bibb County rather and enhance it. I’m aware that appraisers are at work now negotiating property purchases. So, given the priority that you need to find the money to do Houston Avenue, I would request that the Board take action to stop work on the right-of-way contract so that it’s not risking being responsible

for any expenses that ultimately won't be reimbursed by the Department of Transportation. I believe that Board action to stop and scale down the Forest Hill Road project will be appreciated by Bibb County citizens.”  
Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Cloud for his comments.

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

**REFERRALS: None**

At this time, Commissioner Allen stated that since there was a tie vote of 2-2 today regarding the nominations to the River Edge Community Service Board he would like to ask that the matter be put on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole in two weeks.

**RECORD AND INFORMATION: None**

**ACTION:**

1. Ratification of Resolution of the Board of Commissioners designating November 30, 2006 as “Foster Grandparents Day” in Bibb County.

***On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried the above mentioned resolution was ratified.***

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:** Chairman Bishop reported the following:

1. The Committee of the Whole voted unanimously on the nomination of Mr. Randy Griffin and Mrs. Dee Newton to the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission **and** the re-nomination of Mrs. Barbara Wood and Mrs. Sharon Patterson to the KMBBC. All appointees will serve a three-year term.

***On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was ratified unanimously.***

2. The Committee of the Whole voted unanimously on the reappointment of Mr. Chris R. Sheridan to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority.

***On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was ratified on a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Bivins cast the dissenting vote.***

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

1. The Committee recommends that the bi-monthly, retiree, and incentive payrolls normally paid at the end of December and the period ending December 15<sup>th</sup> weekly payroll be distributed December 21, 2006.

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

2. The Committee recommends authorizing the County Attorney to draft revisions to the County Code that will allow selling surplus goods and equipment by utilizing an internet auction company and to allow disposal of goods and equipment that have been declared salvage.

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

3. The Committee recommends awarding the bid for Vehicle Computers for the Bibb County Sheriff's Office to Insight Public Sector in the amount of \$100,820.00.

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

4. The Committee recommends rescinding its actions of November 7, 2006 regarding extending the contract for Inmate Medical Services with Prison Health Services and the supplemental appropriation.

The Committee further recommends extending the contract with Prison Health Services, Inc., for Inmate Medical Services for the term of January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 at a price of \$156,198.75 per month plus \$3.16 per diem for each inmate that exceeds the population cap of 697 inmates.

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

5. The Committee recommends awarding the order to Macon Communications for Portable Radios and Accessories for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$21,049.00.

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

6. The Committee recommends awarding the bid for a Risograph Duplicating Machine to Federal Graphics, LLC in the amount of \$7,970.70.

The Committee further recommends accepting the allowance for trade-in of the existing equipment toward the purchase of the new equipment.

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

**RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** – Committee Chairman Hart reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of Mr. James R. Davis' vehicle assignment as exclusive Unrestricted.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of the recommendation of the County Attorney as it relates to Mrs. Janice Tolbert vs. Bibb County.

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

3. The Committee recommends approval of the recommendation of the County Attorney as it relates to Stephen Lacey vs. Bibb County.

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

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

1. The Committee recommends that the request of Andrew Hall on behalf of Armstrong World Industries, 4520 Broadway, that the late filing penalties on their 2005 tax bill be waived and that the Freeport exemption reductions be removed be respectfully denied.

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

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

1. The Committee recommends approval of the contract between The Macon Tennis Association and Court Makers, Inc in the amount of \$660,500.00 for repairs to the John Drew Smith Tennis Center.

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

2. The Committee recommends that the petitions to register Bohannon Drive, York Lane and Lochwolde Drive in Wyndhurst 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.**

3. The Committee recommends that the request of Sam Hall & Sons for Tinker Drive Extension to be temporarily closed be approved with the stipulation that

Bibb County will give them a 30-day notice if it becomes necessary to reopen the road in the future.

The Committee further recommends that the County Attorney arrange for the proper public notice of the road closure.

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

4. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign agreements between Bibb County and Georgia Power Company for maintenance of high mast lighting on I-475 at Zebulon Road and at Mercer University Drive (SR74)

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

5. The Committee recommends that Purchasing be directed to advertise for sealed bids for the sale of the log cabin located on property recently acquired by Bibb County off New Forsyth 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.

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE** – No Report.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** – Committee Chairman Richardson reported that the Committee was presented with the final plans by the Architect on the South Bibb County library today and that the plans have been approved by the Library Board. He stated that they anticipate moving forward with bids received probably sometime the latter part of January, and hopefully, start construction by the first of March.

Chairman Bishop added that this was the largest grant (\$2.5 million) coming from the state of Georgia for the construction of the library. He added that it took a long time to facilitate and took a concerted effort of the commissioners, some state representatives and the Governor.

**TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE** – Committee Chairman Allen reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the request from the Macon Police Department SWAT Team to waive the fees for the use of the Claystone Pavilion on December 6, 2006 be respectfully denied.

**DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Allen stated that this Board took it upon themselves to try and help the police officers use this facility by agreeing to pay \$40.00 each to defray the cost. He added that since that time, they have learned that the FOP has decided to allow them to use their facility for their event. He commended his fellow board members for their willingness to help out.

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

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE** – No Report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - At this time, Chairman Bishop recognized Ms. Susan Long for comments. An excerpt of her comments is as follows:

“My name is Susan Long. I’m President of the Vineville Neighborhood Association. We serve about 1000 homes in the Vineville National Historic District. Our board voted several months ago to support all of the residents of Forest Hill Road in their request for redesign of the planned project. We feel that it would be disastrous for Macon-Bibb County if this project goes forward as is planned. Our association would like to urge you to reconsider the use of roundabouts at key intersections. This is just a way over blown project. We feel that the Forest Hill neighborhood and Drive is a unique section of Macon; it’s what makes Macon special. So, I ask you to please reconsider this project. I know you’ve spent money on the design but I don’t think there are many folks in Macon that would feel badly about looking at this project again and reconsidering some safer alternatives that would be less intrusive to this neighborhood. I think that they would feel like that’s a very wise decision.”

Chairman Bishop thanked Ms. Long for her comments.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board