

MINUTES
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 14, 2004
6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Tommy C. Olmstead, Vice Chairman Samuel F. Hart, Sr. Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, Commissioner Elmo Richardson Jr. and Commissioner Charles W. Bishop.

Staff present: Mr. Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Mr. Bill Vaughn, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Tommy Brown, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Bill Johnston, Director of Buildings & Properties; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Tony Rousey, ITS Director; Mrs. Barbara Wood, Public Affairs Officer and Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board.

News Media: Travis Fain of The Telegraph, Brandon Long of WMGT TV 41, Randall Savage of WMAZ TV 13 and FOX TV 24.

Chairman Olmstead recognized and welcomed Deputy Louis Foster, Sheriff's Office, for the **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**. It was noted that Reverend Daniel L. Adkins, Gateway Baptist Church, was scheduled to render the prayer but he was stuck in traffic due to an accident.

Chairman Olmstead asked everyone to join the Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Olmstead recognized and welcomed Mayor C. Jack Ellis, City of Macon.

Mayor Ellis thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them and began by stating that he was present because of a conversation he had with Chairman Olmstead which his spokesperson, Mr. Wildman, brought to his attention this afternoon. He stated that the media had asked him to give a comment in reference to a vote that was cast by a committee of the Board of Commissioners this afternoon pertaining to the Road Improvement Program and particular the Intown Historic District Sidewalk program which the Road Improvement Program's executive body had voted four and a half or five years ago to set aside \$2.5 million for the purpose of doing sidewalks in the historic district. Mayor Ellis stated that he voted yes for that at the time, knowing that the Intown Historic District included more than just that part of the City. Mayor Ellis stated that they were including the entire Intown Historic District which includes the Bealls Hills development area, the old Oglethorpe Homes area. The Mayor added that this area, too, is the Intown Historic District. Mayor Ellis stated that because this body (Road Improvement Program) was not in the original Sales Tax SPLOST that was passed in 1994 to set aside sidewalks for any particular area, the Road Improvement Program Executive Committee saw fit, based upon the recommendations of some people in that area, to pass a resolution to put \$2.5 million aside for the Intown Historic District. Mayor Ellis further stated that

his vote was cast because it included Bealls Hills, because he knew they were getting ready to do a major project over there and they had to do some infrastructure and they had to have sidewalks in that particular area. The Mayor stated a \$20 million project, just from the Federal government plus bond they put in, in essence about an \$80 million project with Mercer and all of the other partners. Mayor Ellis continued that the Executive Committee, therefore, voted maybe a month ago, because that money was being spent at a very rapid rate, if you will, decided that if they keep spending the money at the rate in which they were spending it, they wouldn't have any money left over for the Bealls Hills area. The Mayor continued that the Bealls Hills area was last for a reason and that reason was because it wouldn't make sense to come in and put sidewalks in the Bealls Hills area or to repair the sidewalks in that part of the historic district while they were still doing other infrastructure things like putting in sewers and water mains and things of that nature. Mayor Ellis stated that it made sense for them to wait on the back end to spend the money in that part of the Intown Historic District. He stated that now he is told that they're not going to spend money in that part of the Intown Historic District for sidewalks, overruling, if you will, and he understands what the rules say because he had them in hand. The Mayor continued that if they have established an executive committee and they said to the people when they passed this referendum on the SPLOST back in 1994, that the Executive Committee would serve as the coordinating body between the County and City in order to spend this money. He stated that they all agreed to that, understanding that the County ultimately spends the money because it is the fiscal agent and so forth and so on. The Mayor continued that if they are going to completely ignore the wishes of the Executive Committee then why even have an executive committee if they have absolutely zero power. He added that's what the vote the Board cast this afternoon says, that we don't care about the wishes of the Executive Committee, although the Mayor and President of City Council serve on that Executive Committee. The Mayor stated he thinks that sends a very, very bad signal to the people of this community and it sets a very dangerous precedent. He stated it says that because the County calls for all referendums, be it for parks and recreation or what have you, that the City has no say so, none whatsoever, in how the money is spent. The Mayor added that's not fair and it's not right. He continued that if this same Executive Committee voted to set aside the \$2.5 million Road Improvement Program money for the Intown Historic District in the first place which was not part of the original vote as they set aside money for the beautification of Mercer University on Coleman Avenue which he voted for and which he thinks was a good thing. The Mayor continued that as they came back later and amended the program and voted for money at Macon State College, he thinks \$500,000, which he voted for because he thought it was a very good thing as well. He stated that the Executive Committee had the power to vote to change that program but it doesn't have the power to vote to change this program. Mayor Ellis stated that he would respectfully ask that the Board reconsider that vote because this part of the Intown Historic District is just as important to him and hopefully to the Board as the other part of the Intown Historic District. He continued that although the people there make less money, their houses maybe don't cost as much, but they are as important anyone else in this community because their pennies were spent when they bought their loaves of bread or whatever they bought when this sales tax was going on for the period of time that it was going on. Mayor Ellis continued that now just to take \$2.5 million and say it's for a certain section of the Intown Historic District, that's not what they voted for, which probably, in and of itself was not fair to the people in Pleasant Hill, Cherokee Heights and other historic districts. He stated that was not the point here but the point he is making is that this is within the same district, the Intown

Historic District, and so we're saying now that we're going to completely leave out a large segment of the Intown Historic District (i.e. Oglethorpe Street, Hazel Street, Ash Street, Calhoun and all of those streets) which is a part of the Intown Historic District, stating that you if you ride through there, you see the sign. The Mayor continued that why don't the people in that section of the Intown Historic District, deserve the same consideration in terms of sidewalk as the ones where the more affluent or more expensive homes are. The Mayor again stated that he would ask that the Board reconsider that vote and allow the wishes of the Executive Committee to go forward and that is to take a small portion, stating that they've already spent some \$1.7 million in the "upper end" of the Intown Historic District. He stated that he is asking for approximately \$500,000 to \$800,000 of the remaining funds that they set aside some five years ago to be used in the other part of the Intown Historic District. He thanked the Board for its consideration.

Chairman Olmstead responded that the Board appreciated the Mayor's comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Chairman Olmstead announced that the Commissioners' Christmas Reception will be held on Friday, December 17, 2004 from 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom.

Chairman Olmstead announced that the Commissioners' Swearing-In Ceremony will be held on Monday, December 20, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom.

Chairman Olmstead stated that the Board of Commissioners is scheduled to have a board meeting on Tuesday, December 28, 2004 but he thought it was the consensus of the Board to cancel that meeting. Chairman Olmstead called for a motion to cancel the meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Hart, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the December 28, 2004 meeting was canceled. With that, Chairman Olmstead wished everyone a Happy New Year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried, the Minutes of the regular meeting of November 23, 2004 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS -Chairman Olmstead recognized and welcomed Mr. Gene Dunwoody, Ms. Nettie Thomas and Miss Jasmine from Kings Park.

Ms. Thomas addressed the Board by stating that she appreciated working with the Commissioners this year. She stated that the Commissioners have been very good to them adding that whatever they asked for, the Commissioners tried to work with them. She stated that they are still trying to do the same things and she's hoping that the year 2005 turns out like this year. She hopes that they'll have better transportation because so many people need a way to work, church and everywhere else and it takes the County and City working together to do it. Ms. Thomas wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chairman Olmstead recognized and welcomed Mr. Clifford Johnson, Mr. Robby Gibbs, Ms. Colleen Giffin of the South Bibb County Property Owners Association, and Mrs. Thelma Dillard.

Chairman Olmstead called on Mrs. Dillard stating that she was a good personal friend of his and that she is a former city council person. Chairman Olmstead stated that Mrs. Dillard is responsible for a couple of Resolutions being presented by the Board tonight to two individuals for their heroic acts. However, at this time, the honorees were not present but were expected to arrive. Chairman Olmstead called on Mrs. Dillard to tell the audience what these two individuals did.

Mrs. Dillard stated that she was happy to have this opportunity and apologized for that the honorees were not present. She stated that the two gentlemen saved a life a year ago and they were never honored. She stated that they saved the life of an elderly lady whose house was on fire and they went in and saved her life. She stated that the Board of Commissioners planned to honor Mr. Reginald Cooper and Mr. Ronnie Manghram who saw smoke coming from the back of Ms. Jackson's house and they went into action and called 911. She stated that Mr. Cooper rescued Ms. Jackson and removed her from the burning house and saved her life. She added that she was honored and privileged that the Board has honored these two men. Mrs. Dillard further stated that when she brought this to the Board's attention, Mrs. Barbara Wood, who she thanked and stated was an asset to the County, jumped right on it. Mrs. Dillard stated that she worked with Barbara for so many years and was very proud of her accomplishments and how hard she works and what an asset she is and that she is very grateful for her jumping on top of this and making it work. Mrs. Dillard further stated that she was happy to be able to receive the Resolutions tonight and regret so much that the honorees were not present to receive them on their own. She stated that she was little bit disappointed about that but happy to be here and that she will make sure they get them. Mrs. Dillard thanked the Board for its efforts.

Also present but not formally recognized was Sheriff Jerry Modena and Captain Russell Nelson.

REFERRALS:

The following items were referred to **ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS:**

1. An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Bibb County, Georgia, establishing and constituting Broadleaf Subdivision and Street Light District 5051.
2. An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Bibb County, Georgia, establishing and constituting Hidden Creek Subdivision, Phase II, as Street Light District 5035.

RECORD & INFORMATION:

Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: Tobesofkee Recreation Area.

ACTION: None.

Chairman Olmstead gave the following report of his activities since the last meeting:

- 11/23 - Meeting with Bill Vaughn & Jim Davis
- 12/6 - MEDC Meeting
Industrial Authority Meeting
- 12/7 - Meeting with Bill Vaughn, Commissioner Bishop, Clay Murphy & Jeff Jones
Lunch with Bill Vaughn and Robert Moultrie
- 12/9 - Meeting with Bill Vaughn, Deborah Martin, Commissioner Hart,
Representatives with Facility Group & Sheriff Modena

Chairman Olmstead stated that he had a short list of activities because he had taken a week off to go on a cruise where he relaxed in the sun. He stated that he thought about everyone back here in Bibb County while he was away.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

1. The Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2004 Debt Service Fund in the amount of \$160,924.00 to cover lease payments on equipment.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2005 General Fund budget in the amount of \$11,950.00 to purchase a Citizens' Emergency Response Team trailer with the cost to be offset by revenue from GEMA.

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

3. The Committee recommends the contract with Prison Health Services, Inc., covering Inmate Medical Services, be extended to cover the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 with all pricing and terms and conditions to remain unchanged.

The Committee further recommends that Chairman Olmstead be authorized to execute the extension agreement.

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

4. The Committee recommends the bid for Vehicles be awarded as follows:

- a. Item #10 and #15 awarded to Allan Vigil Ford in the amount of \$57,118.00.
- b. Item #1 through #9, and item #14 awarded to Prater Ford in the amount of \$433,603.25.
- c. Item #11 awarded to Brannen Motor Company in the amount of \$27,400.00.

The Committee further recommends the bid for item #12, 5-yard dump truck, be rejected and re-bid.

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

5. The Committee recommends approval of resolution consenting to the sales contract as proposed by the Urban Development Authority between the Authority, Forum Municipal Development Services and Eberhardt and Barry, Inc., for the purpose of locating the Georgia Department of Corrections headquarters.

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

6. The Committee recommends approval to proceed with design build contract for \$30 million for the Bibb County Law Enforcement Center renovations and expansion contingent upon Federal Judge's approval.

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

7. The Committee recommends approval of authorization for the Chairman to sign a contract between Bibb County and River Edge Behavioral Health Community Service Board for River Edge to be the subcontractor on the contract between Bibb County and the State of Georgia Department of Human Resources to provide and operate facilities designed to administer substance abuse and mental health services to residents in the Bibb County area.

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

8. The Committee recommends approval of authorization for the Chairman to sign a three-year extension of the lease between Bibb County and Murphy, Taylor & Ellis for space for the Bibb County Extension Service for the period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007.

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

DISCUSSION:

Virgil Adams, County Attorney, stated that the leasing agent representing the County indicated that the new contract will be under the same rental terms. He stated, however, that after the committee meeting today, Bob Lewis, who represents the owner, heard it and said that the rental rate is supposed to be based on the last rent for 2004 which means that there will not be a decrease, it will just remain the same as it is in 2004 for the next three years. He stated, therefore, there won't be an increase either. He stated that the motion and the vote is fine to approve the lease but the rent will remain what it is now. He stated that he will make sure those changes get made.

9. The Committee recommends that Requisition #39076 covering a Digital Audio Collection System for the Sheriff's Office be awarded as a sole source to Sytech Corporation in the amount of \$65,175.00.

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

10. The Committee recommends that Requisition #39182 covering Computers for various departments be awarded to Dell Marketing L.P. in conjunction with State of Georgia Contract in the amount of \$22,562.30.

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

11. The Committee recommends that Requisition #38816 covering a Driving Simulator for the Sheriff's Office be awarded as a sole source to L3 Communications in the amount of \$65,000.00.

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

12. The Committee recommends the bid covering a Vehicle for the Commissioner's Office be awarded to Riverside Ford in the amount of \$24,684.00.

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

13. The Committee recommends the proposal covering Security Guard Services be awarded to Sizemore Security at a rate of \$8.95 per hour for regular hours and \$13.24 per hour for overtime hours.

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

14. The Committee recommends that Requisition #39470 covering Fire Protective Clothing

(Turn-Out Gear) be awarded to Vitco Safety Products in the amount of \$28,350.00.

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

15. The Committee recommends that Requisition #39541 covering Wiring of Telephones for the Public Defender's Office be awarded to Speir & Associates Electrical Contractors in the amount of \$5,805.00.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - No Report.

ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Bishop reported the following:

1. The Committee reports that bids were received on November 16, 2004, for improvements to Tucker Road, RIP#23 and that Northeast Concrete Company was the low responsive bidder with a total bid for Alternates A and B of \$2,008,644.63.

The Committee recommends that award be made to Northeast Concrete 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 Bishop and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

2. The Committee recommends that the Board fully support and approve the professional services contracts between the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition and (1) The Clark Group, LLC in the amount of \$62,266.00; and (2) the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition in the amount of \$34,000.00.

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

3. The Committee recommends approval of Budget Modification No. 19 for the Macon-Bibb County Road Improvement Program.

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

4. The Committee recommends approval of the request from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, that they be allowed to use the

facility at Sandy Beach Park, Lake Tobesofkee, to begin air quality monitoring operations, subject to EPD agreeing to pay for any utility cost of other incidental costs associated with its use.

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

5. The Committee recommends that the County pursue a County Contract with the Department of Transportation for the paving of 1500' of Bloomfield Drive Extension.

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

6. The Committee recommends that the Macon-Bibb County Road Improvement Program continue with the replacement of sidewalks as indicated in the original plan and that any requests for reimbursement of funds for new sidewalks be respectfully denied.

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

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Bishop reported the following:

The Committee recommends approval for Mr. Jim Rainey, Georgia Multisports Productions to host the Second Annual Rock & Roll Ironman Triathlon at Sandy Beach on June 5, 2005.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - No Report.

Commissioner Bishop made a motion that the Board hold a Special Called Meeting immediately following the Commissioners' Swearing-In Ceremony on Monday, December 20, 2004.

He stated that the items to be discussed will be on the Agenda which will be advertised. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried.

Commissioner Bishop added that the Special Called Meeting will be in the Commissioners Conference Room around 2:30 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of the County "***Guidelines for Establishing Pay for Interim Positions.***"

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

2. The Committee recommends the following individuals for reappointment to The Central Georgia Joint Development Authority:

- Mr. James Johnson
- Mr. Robert Mullis
- Mr. Chuck O'Neal
- Mr. John Wolfenbarger

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

3. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign the renewal of the County's Stop Loss Agreement with a savings of \$43,000.00.

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

4. The Committee recommends reestablishing the Public Relations/Governmental Affairs position at Lake Tobesofkee and for the County Attorney to develop a position description.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

The Committee recommends adoption of ordinance respecting payment of claims and judgments on behalf of County employees.

Commissioner Bivins read the Ordinance by the following caption:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO AMEND SECTION 2-186 OF THE CODE OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, ENTITLED "PAYMENT OF JUDGMENTS; COMPROMISE AND SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS"; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE - No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE - Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the County consent to the transfer by the Urban Development Authority of approximately 2.39 acres of land to the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority to be ultimately transferred to the State of Georgia for use as the site of the new State Health building. The State will in turn convey a site it owns on Hemlock Street to the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval for Board Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer to pursue construction of a drivers' license building leased to the State over a 20-year period.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - At this time, Chairman Olmstead presented Mr. Reginald Cooper with a Resolution for his heroic acts in saving Ms. Alma Jackson from her burning home as was described by Mrs. Dillard earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS - Chairman Olmstead stated that he would like to **Call For A Vote To Discuss** a matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hart for discussion.

Chairman Olmstead stated that he would like to ask the Tax Assessors to hold a meeting to hear from Mr. Calvin Hicks. He stated that he would like to make this in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried unanimously.

Chairman Olmstead added that this action would be conveyed to the Board of Tax Assessors.

Commissioner Richardson made some comments to the Chairman, stating that he knows that this probably his last meeting officially residing over this Commission. He stated that he personally wanted to thank him for his dedicated service to Macon and Bibb County. He stated that he remembered back in the '70s when the Chairman Olmstead first served on the Commission and his firm was doing some work for the Commission. He stated that he had the pleasure of working with him at that time. Commissioner Richardson continued that Chairman Olmstead had served in the State Senate, serving the people of Middle Georgia, and later as Mayor of Macon for three years and had the pleasure of working with him there as well. He continued that a little more than two and a half years ago, Chairman Olmstead encouraged him to run for this job and he's not sure he wants to thank him for that. Commissioner Richardson stated that it has been a real pleasure for him to work with Chairman Olmstead through these many years and that we owe a debt of gratitude to him for his commitment to Macon, Bibb County and the Middle Georgia community and he wanted to personally thank him.

Chairman Olmstead stated that he was not much on good-byes but stated that this has been a great experience for him and he's had a long and gratifying career, after he ran his business for 44 years in Macon. He stated that he loves Macon and Bibb County and always will and that he wants to see it continue to prosper and that he will certainly be a part of it, by paying taxes. He added that he wanted to thank everyone for putting up with him which he knows sometimes was difficult. He further added that he hopes everyone continue serving the people in the same manner they have served in the past. He stated, too, that it was gratifying to know what a quality County Commission we have in Bibb County and that he thinks it's recognized all over the State that they get things done orderly and without making a lot of noise and that's the way the likes to see it.

At this time, Chairman Olmstead read a note left by the pastor scheduled to render the prayer for the day that he apologizes to the Commission for not being able to make it on time but he tied up in an accident on Forest Hill Road, and that he wishes all Commissioners a very Merry Christmas.

Chairman Olmstead, too, wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond
Clerk of the Board