

**MACON COUNTY  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday February 6th, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones, Commissioners Phillip Snow, Todd Gentry, Keith Newberry, Mike Jenkins, Benton Bartley, Ethan Flippin, Billy Wilmore, Justin Dyer, Dan Hill, Barry Marshall, Michael Slayton, Jeff Hughes, Barry King, Bobby Ray King, Kyle Petty, Wendell Jones, Jarhea Wilmore, Helen Hesson and Larry West.

Absent: Tony Wix

Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones opened the meeting.

Keith Newberry gave the Invocation.

Billy Wilmore led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Jenkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to accept minutes as presented from the 1/17/23 Legislative Body meeting, 12/20/22 Planning Commission meeting, 8/16/22 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, and 1/17/23 Animal Control Committee meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenkins to defer Budget Amendments #1-4 (#1 EMS, #2 Sheriff's Department, #3 General Purpose School, and #4 School Nutrition) to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to defer #2-27/23 Solid Waste Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

School Director Shawn Carter stated that the school board is working with the architects with Upland Design to finalize a design for the new elementary school. He is hoping to bring the design to the Commissioners next month.

Road Supervisor Audie Cook stated that he had received a quote from Roger's Group for the repaving of Bethany Rd and Jimtown Rd. Paving for Jimtown Rd would cost approximately \$1,955,020 and Bethany Rd's cost would be \$1,308,350 with a total of \$3,263,370. Mr. Cook did explain that it was considerably higher than was expected and he was waiting for one more bid to come in.

Motion #4 by Bartley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by King to allow further discussions on repaving of Bethany Rd and Jimtown Rd and defer to Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Sheriff Joey Wilburn stated that there was a paddy wagon in the garage at the Justice Center that had been there a long time. He stated that he thought that the Shriner's had donated it at one time to them and they were now asking for it to be donated back to them.

Motion #5 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by West to donate the paddy wagon at the Sheriff's Department to the Shriner's and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Property Assessor Rick Shoulders presented a Memorandum of Understanding for Reappraisals and explained to the Commissioners the reappraisal process. He stated that the County is currently on a 5-year plan through the State of TN, and he was requesting to change that to a 6-year plan. He explained that this would help the County receive more money due to the property tax ratios taking place every 3 years instead of the 5-year plan it is on currently.

Motion #6 by Snow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dyer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Reappraisals and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Property Assessor Rick Shoulders stated that one of his employees was retiring and would have to be paid for her accumulated vacation time. He stated he was requesting the Commissioners to allow a budget amendment to be brought back to the next meeting for approximately \$6,200 so he could hire someone immediately to replace the employee.

Motion #7 by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gentry to allow a budget amendment for the Property Assessor to be brought back and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained he had met with the City of Lafayette about moving their 911 Dispatchers to the E-911 Building. With the agreement, the City of Lafayette would give funds to the County to pay for 6 dispatchers. The City of RBS would have to agree to pay for 1 dispatcher. This collaboration would take place July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Jones stated this still must be approved by the City Councils and E-911 Board.

Motion #8 by Slayton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by West to approve agreements for dispatchers and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried by Roll Call (18 yes – 1 no)

Motion #9 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hill to defer Jail bids for doors, glass, intercom, and HVAC systems to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones opened discussion concerning the construction of a new vocational school to replace the old Tri County Vocational School that is scheduled to close in the next three to five years. Mayor Jones stated that if the Commissioners wanted to build a new vocational school, with the agreement that the Macon County School Board would pay the payment for the new elementary school, then the commission would have to approve a \$36.00 wheel tax increase to fund it. Discussion ensued but majority agreed it was needed for the future of the students of Macon County. It was also discussed about sunseting the increase when the school is paid for. Mayor Jones stated that he would have to speak to Attorney Guy Holliman on the process and bring back recommendations.

Motion #10 by Wilmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dyer to increase wheel tax by \$36 to build new vocational school as soon as possible and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried by Roll Call (17 yes – 2 no)

Mayor Jones stated that at the Animal Control meeting last month it was discussed that due to rescues being full and not having enough space due to the abundance of dogs, the County may have to start a new euthanasian policy. Mayor Jones explained that there is a state law that sets the amount of time the animals must be held and recommended adding an extra amount of time to allow for adoption or rescue.

Motion #11 by Slayton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty to euthanize dogs held after the time set by state law and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that he had been asked by the fair board about rebidding the fairground bathrooms. He stated due to the bathrooms being County property the commission would have to approve to rebuild it

and make it ADA compliant. Commissioner Benton Bartley suggested bidding the projects separately including the Meador Building.

Motion # 12 by Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartley to rebid the fairground bathrooms and Meador Building projects and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that he had met with TennPlasco regarding a portion of land at the industrial development expansion. He stated that he would like permission for him along with Attorney Guy Holliman, to have discussions about swapping or selling land to them. Commissioner Ethan Flippin suggested possibly leasing them the land.

Motion #13 by Newberry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by West to allow Mayor Jones and Attorney Guy Holliman to negotiate industrial development expansion property with TennPlasco and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that Attorney Guy Holliman will be discussing the citizens' concerns and rezoning policies at the next Legislative Body meeting.

Motion #14 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshall to allow discussion regarding the rezoning of the land and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #15 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hughes to accept the Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #16 by Jenkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bartley to accept the Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #17 by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marshall to accept the EMS Operational Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained that EMS Director had someone contact him regarding having an ambulance at a special event. Mr. Carter gave them a price of \$100 per hour and the salary of 1 paramedic and 1 advanced EMT totaling \$1,384. No action was taken after the discussion.

Mayor Jones stated that USDA had approved the funding of the new Administrative Building and within the next couple of weeks were hoping to get the project out for bid. He stated that he had signed the paperwork for the new Health Department. He also stated that he had spoken to Senator Ken Yager in a meeting last week regarding the Church Street intersection due to still hearing complaints. He stated that he is hoping to get a study with the State of TN done there in hopes of getting a light put up therein the future.

Mayor Jones stated that the parking lots at the Welcome Center, Libraries, EMS, Health Department, UCHRA building, E-911, and Justice Center are all in need of resealing and restriping.

Motion #18 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to allow Mayor Jones to bring back estimates for resealing and restriping county building parking lots and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion #19 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty to adjourn.

Motion Carried