

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

Monday June 5th, 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, Tony Wix, Michael Slayton, Jeff Hughes, Barry King, Bobby Ray King, Wendell Jones, Jarhea Wilmore, Helen Hesson, Larry West.

Absent: Kyle Petty

Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones opened the meeting.

Keith Newberry gave the Invocation.

Bobby Ray King led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Hesson, 2nd by Newberry to accept minutes as presented from the 5/15/23 Legislative Body meeting, 4/18/23 Planning Commission meeting, Board of Zoning Appeals 2/14/23 and 5/1/23, 5/22/23, 5/30/23 Budget meetings and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by West, 2nd by Jenkins to defer Budget Amendments #1-20 (#1 EMA, #2 Planning, #3 Trustee, #4 E-911, #5 Library, #6 County Clerk, #7 County Mayor, #8 Solid Waste, #9 General Fund – Bridge Construction, #10 Capital Projects – Jail Addition, #11 Reappraisal Program, #12 Sheriff’s Department, #13 General Purpose School, #14 Willette Fire Department, #15 EMS, # 16 Animal Control, #17 Rural Fire Protection, #18 County Coroner/Medical Examiner, #19 School Nutrition, and #20 Other Charges) to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Hesson, 2nd by Jenkins to defer #6-40/23 Swartzentruber Property Rezoning Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #4 by Hughes, 2nd by Newberry to defer #6-41/23 Dairy Month Proclamation to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #5 by King, 2nd by Hill to defer #6-42/23 ThreeStar Fiscal Confirmation Letter to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by Hesson, 2nd by West to defer #6-43/23 MCSO & LPD Mutual Aid Agreement to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #7 by King, 2nd by Jones to defer #6-44/23 Invest-Prep Grant Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Animal Control Officer Ashley Carter came before the Commissioners answering questions that they had. Commissioner Barry King asked about the protocol that Animal Control had regarding how many times they can respond to the same person for a call. Mrs. Carter stated that the only way she can pick up an animal, is if it is running at large and that then she may have to go several times to the same location about the same animal complaint, due to it being on the owner's property when Animal Control gets to the residence. She stated that due to not being able to write citations, she doesn't have much control over the number of times she has to do that but that the Sheriff's Department is good at helping her with the citations that are written. Commissioner Dan Hill asked about building a livestock pen due to not having enough space at the current pound to house them. Commissioner Larry West stated that he had complaints about Animal Control not answering the phone and Mrs. Carter stated that she had taken care of that problem and all the calls were up to date. Commissioner Justin Dyer stated that he still felt like euthanasia wasn't being taken full advantage of if the pound was full. Mrs. Carter stated that the veterinary office only did euthanasia on Wednesdays, but she had a system in place that is working to keep the number of animals in the pound down including using social media to help get them adopted out.

Mayor Jones stated that he had appointed 2 interim Co-Directors for EMS. He appointed Josh Perrigo as interim Clinical Director and Alecia Kempf as interim Administrative Director. He stated that they are getting a program in place to get more staff hired, including paying for schooling.

Motion #8 by Snow, 2nd by Dyer to ratify EMS interim Co-Directors Josh Perrigo and Alecia Kempf and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for ratification.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that after meeting with the County's Financial Advisors from Raymond James, they suggested the county get started on the paperwork for USDA funding for the new elementary school and vocational school. He stated that this only gets the county locked into the current 3.75 % interest rate and does not obligate them to borrow any USDA funding.

Motion #9 by King, 2nd by J. Wilmore to approve the Raymond James Agreement for the new Elementary School and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #10 by West, 2nd by Hughes to approve the Raymond James Agreement for the new Vocational School and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried by Roll (16 – yes, 3 – no)

Mayor Jones explained that the State of TN had now made Juneteenth a state holiday. Mayor Jones said there was previous questions on how much this was cost and that had not been determined at this time.

Motion #11 by Hughes, 2nd by Marshall to defer Juneteenth discussion to the Legislative Body meeting.

Motion Carried by Roll Call (15 – yes, 4 – no)

Motion #12 by Hesson, 2nd Newberry to accept the Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #13 by J. Wilmore, 2nd Gentry to accept the Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #14 by Newberry, 2nd Jenkins to accept the EMS Operational Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Terry Wix, a resident of Marlin Ln, came before the Commission requesting the Highway Department to take care of the lane down to the creek. Mayor Jones stated that the Highway Committee would need to look at it and bring back recommendations.

Motion #15 by King, 2nd by Hill to defer Marlin Lane to the Legislative Body meeting for approval and have the Highway Committee look at it and bring back recommendations.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Barry King asked about getting a guard rail installed on Highway 10 due to having lots of wrecks at one location. Mayor Jones stated that he had already spoken to TDOT, and they are aware of the problem and are looking to see what could be done.

Commissioner Bobby Ray King asked Mayor Jones to read aloud a document he had prepared and brought to the meeting, regarding the history of the wheel tax revenue, started in 1988. Mayor Jones read the document and stated that Attorney Guy Holliman would review it and bring back his recommendations. Mr. King also commended the Sheriff's Department for cleaning up Roark Cemetery for the County. He also asked if there were any funds for projects to be done there. Mayor Jones stated that he is in the process of trying to get the property surveyed and then would like to install a fence around the perimeter.

Commissioner Keith Newberry expressed his concerns with the Hwy 52-yard sale and the traffic and safety issues that it comes with. He suggested not allowing it anymore or moving it to a different location. Mayor Jones stated that with it being a state road, he wasn't sure if that would be possible, but would speak to Attorney Guy Holliman about it.

Motion #16 by Hesson, 2nd by Snow to adjourn.

Motion Carried