

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

Monday November 6, 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.

Benton Bartley led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hughes to accept minutes as presented from the 10/16/23 Legislative Body meeting, 9/19/23 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, and 10/4/23 Joint Economic & Community Development Meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Jenkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hughes to accept Budget Amendments #1-#11 (#1 Capital Projects – Administrative Building, #2 Veterans Officer, #3 Sheriff's Department – SRO Grant, #4 County Clerk, #5 Library - Restricted, #6 Capital Projects – Jail Addition, #7 Sheriff's Department, #8 EMA, #9 Sheriff's Department, #10 Animal Control, and #11 Drug Fund) and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried with Snow voting No

Motion #3 by Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flippin to defer 11-12/23 Recycling Month Proclamation to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #4 by Wilmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartley to defer 11-13/23 Site Development Grant Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #5 by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to defer 11-14/23 O'Neal Property Rezoning Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by Wilmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenkins to defer 11-15/23 School Nutrition Fund Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained that he along with School Director Shawn Carter are going to meet with the architects tomorrow to discuss the vocational school and will be bringing back the information at the Legislative Body meeting.

Motion #7 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to defer discussions about the vocational school to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Jones explained that Joe Barber had contacted him regarding a portion of Cold Springs Rd/Hirestown Rd. His request is to get the road put back onto the county road list. Mayor Jones recommended the Highway Committee go look at the road and bring back recommendations to the Legislative Body meeting. The Highway Committee is to meet on Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Motion #8 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hill to defer Cold Springs Rd/Hirestown Rd to the Legislative Body meeting for approval and/or recommendations from the Highway Committee.

Motion Carried

Sheriff Joey Wilburn stated that he had received the Sheriff's Department's Employee Policy and Procedures back from County Attorney Guy Holliman with the recommended changes and would like approval from the Commission. He stated that he had a copy of the policy if anyone would like to review it.

Motion #9 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to accept the Sheriff's Department Employee Policy and Procedures and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Sheriff Wilburn stated that the Sheriff's Department has some 40-caliber ammunition that he would like to sale due to them changing the caliber firearms they are now using.

Motion #10 Flippin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dyer to allow Sheriff Wilburn to sale the extra 40 caliber ammunition and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Sheriff Wilburn stated the Sheriff's Department has approximately 5 vehicles that need to be sold due to being disabled for different reasons and asked approval from the Commission to sale them at auction.

Motion #11 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dyer to allow Sheriff Wilburn to sale the disabled vehicles at auction and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained that Judge Greg Traylor would like to come and explain the new programs he would like to implement.

Motion #12 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hill to allow Judge Traylor to come before the Commission to explain the implemented programs and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #13 by Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenkins to defer the Committee List to the Legislative Body meeting for ratification.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained that 2 Animal Control officers had been hired instead of one due to the current Animal Control officer Ashley Carter replacing McKenzie Jones in the Mayor's office. Mika Pelerine and James England were the ones hired.

Motion #14 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenkins to defer Mayor Jones hiring of Mika Pelerine and James England for Animal Control and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for ratification.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained that due to the construction of the road for the Administrative Building and Health Department, the water and sewer lines are going to have to be lowered. He explained that the 3 quotes he had been given are \$70,000, \$60,000, and \$58,000. He explained that the Highway Department agreed to help with the lines to save some money. Mayor Jones also stated he was going to see if the city would be able to help.

Motion #15 by Bartley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty to accept the Highway Department and City of Lafayette to help with moving the water and sewer lines at the Administrative Building and Health Department and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained that there had been some problems during the audit with the Purchasing Policy regarding check requests, purchase orders and travel. He explained that he had changed the policy and given it to County Attorney Guy Holliman for review and corrections. He stated that it would be brought back at the Legislative Body meeting for final approval.

Motion #16 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to accept the Purchasing Policy and Travel Policy and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Jacob McClard brought the requested information regarding the liability insurance for the construction of the new field at the fairgrounds along with the plans of where the field would be located.

Motion #17 by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hesson to approve the Lafayette Little League to build another field at the fairgrounds and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for final approval.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Jones stated that he had met with Clay Whitehead with Buford and Golf Associates, who were hired by the State of TN regarding getting permission to install antennas on the emergency towers. These antennas are going to be used by TDOT, TN Highway Patrol, and the Forest Service and can also be used for our local emergency services. He stated that if given permission to install them, they would install new radios in each ambulance.

Motion #18 by Slayton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to allow the installation of antennas on the Macon County communications towers and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that bids were accepted for ambulance remounts on Unit #31 and Unit#32. Select-Tech was the only bidder with a bid of \$159,800 for each unit. Mayor Jones stated that the bid stated that it would be 24 months until the remounts could be completed.

Motion #19 by Snow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by West to accept bid of \$159,800 each for remounting ambulance unit #31 and unit #32 and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that after speaking with Cope Architecture, the estimated bid for the Jail addition was at going to be approximately \$30M-\$31M. The interim loan is currently \$24M. Mayor Jones stated that it will take approximately 81 inmates to pay the original estimated and approximately 100 with the increase. Mayor Jones explained that once the addition is complete, the cost of additional staff will be the biggest cost, estimated at an additional \$1M per year, out of the General Fund.

Motion #20 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hesson to allow discussion about the Jail addition bid and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried with Snow voting no.

Mayor Jones explained that Solid Waste had received a \$50,000 grant for new scales. He stated that the bids are currently being taken and would be brought back for approval at the Legislative Body meeting. He stated that he estimated the difference to be approximately \$100,000 and that would come out of Solid Waste's fund balance.

Motion #21 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshall to defer bids for Solid Waste scales to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that he was going to have foot surgery at the end of November and requested not to have the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioners will still receive their packets for the Legislative Body meeting.

Motion #22 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty to allow not having the December 4<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #23 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilmore to defer Macon County Soil and Conservation FY23 Annual Report to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Bobby Ray King requested to discuss the Fair Board financials. Fair Board Treasurer Angie Doss presented the treasurer's report from October 2022 to September 2023 for the Commissioners to review. Some of the Fair Board members were also there to answer any questions the Commission had. Discussion ensued. Mr. King asked for this report to be given to the Commissioners every November.

Motion #24 by B.R. King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to accept the Fair Board Financial Report and report be brought back every November and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Bobby Ray King stated that he had some people contact him about donating to the Roark Cemetery. Mayor Jones explained that anyone wanting to donate could send the money to the mayor's office and it would be set aside for it.

Commissioner Jeff Hughes requested to increase the number of school board members. County Attorney Guy Holliman sent them an information sheet on the procedure to add new seats. The number of members was discussed but not determined.

Motion #25 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hughes to increase the number of school board members and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried with Roll Call (13 yes, 6 no)

Commissioner Ethan Flippin requested to discuss increasing the Impact Fees. Mayor Jones stated that the commission had already approved in March 2021 to increase the amount from \$1.00 per sq ft to \$2.50 per sq ft by private act. Mayor Jones stated that recommendations would be needed by Attorney Holliman on the proper procedures if the commission wanted to proceed with an additional increase.

Motion #26 by Flippin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartley to allow discussion on increasing the Impact Fees and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval with recommendations from Attorney Holliman.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Keith Newberry requested to discuss extending Gann Hollow Rd for Ricky Smith. Mayor Jones stated that the extension had already come before the commission in April 2019 and Attorney Holliman had explained that the county was not responsible for building a road to the property and it would be up to the property owner to get legal counsel and take it to Court for a Judge to decide about an easement to the property due to it being landlocked. Discussion ensued.

Motion #27 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to defer discussions on extending Gann Hollow Rd to the Legislative Body meeting for approval and recommendations from Attorney Holliman.  
Motion Carried

Motion #28 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jenkins to accept Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.  
Motion Carried

Motion #29 by Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marshall to accept Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.  
Motion Carried

Motion #30 by Wilmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hesson to accept EMS Operational Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.  
Motion Carried

Mayor Jones opened the period for public comments, no one wished to speak.

Mayor Jones stated that Attorney Holliman would be having an executive session with the Commission at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion #31 by Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flippin to allow executive session with Attorney Holliman and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.  
Motion Carried

Motion #32 by Slayton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshall to adjourn.  
Motion Carried