

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

Tuesday January 2nd, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones, Commissioners Todd Gentry, Keith Newberry, Mike Jenkins, Justin Dyer, Dan Hill, Barry Marshall, Tony Wix, Michael Slayton, Jeff Hughes, Barry King, Bobby Ray King, Wendell Jones, Jarhea Wilmore, Helen Hesson, and Larry West.

Absent: Phillip Snow, Benton Bartley, Ethan Flippin, Billy Wilmore, and Kyle Petty

Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones opened the meeting.

Jeff Hughes gave the Invocation.

Justin Dyer led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Jenkins, 2nd by Hughes to accept minutes as presented from the 12/18/23 Legislative Body meeting and 12/18/23 Joint Economic and Community Development Meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Jenkins, 2nd by Hughes to accept Budget Amendments #1-#4 (#1 Solid Waste, #2 Sheriff's Department, #3 Sheriff's Department – SRO Grant and #4 Animal Control) and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Hesson, 2nd by Newberry to defer 1-16/24 Tuck Property Rezoning to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

School Director Shawn Carter introduced a TRANE representative to the Commissioners, who explained about an Infrastructure Improvement and Energy Conservation Program for the schools. This program is a 15-year plan that addresses aging infrastructure and utility costs in gas, electric, and water systems within each school. He explained that TRANE performs a Feasibility Analysis of each facility and if this plan is used to update things such as master controls, lighting, etc., that TRACE guarantees savings for Macon County.

Sheriff Joey Wilburn requested to bring back appointments for the three (3) Work Release Committee members required for the Work Release program for approval by the County Commissioners.

Motion #4 by Newberry, 2nd by Gentry to approve Sheriff Wilburn to bring back appointments for the Work Release Program Committee and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Judge Traylor updated the Commissioners regarding the Court Security Grant that was awarded to Macon County. This is a 100 % reimbursable grant that will bring the court system in compliance with the 2018 regulations. He stated that the Drug Council will be taking applications to disburse the funds appropriated using the Opioid Settlement. He stated that the first Drug Court had taken place and that one individual had gone through this process. He explained that he was having problems with not being able to place juvenile offenders due to capacity at the local facilities in Putnam and Rutherford Counties. He explained that the cost was rising to house these individuals and there weren't enough funds in the current budget to

pay for the cost. Mayor Jones explained that a budget amendment would be brought back to pay for the cost.

Mayor Jones stated that the City of Lafayette had been gracious and let the Commissioners have the meeting in their meeting room. He explained that the chairlift at the Courthouse was not functioning and that was why the Commissioners' meeting was having to be held at this location. He stated that unless the lift could be repaired, due to ADA requirements, a new location would have to be found for all Commissioners meetings going forward until the new administrative building was completed. It was decided to continue to have all Commissioners' meetings in the City of Lafayette meeting room until further notice.

Motion #5 by Wilmore, 2nd by Hesson to not repair chair lift and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by Hesson, by Hill defer Jail bids to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that the County had received a \$50,000 3 Star Grant to install a walking track around the pond at Winding Stairs Park. He explained that this money would need to be transferred to the City of Lafayette to be used for the project. Mayor Jones told the commissioners this was just a formality and if the funds were not transferred the grant funds would have to be given back to the State of Tennessee.

Motion #7 by Jones, 2nd by Marshall to donate the \$50,000 3 Star grant to the City of Lafayette for installation of the walking track at Winding Stairs Park and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #8 by Hesson, 2nd by Newberry to defer an additional animal control position for the City of Lafayette to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #7 by West, 2nd by King to accept Mid-Tenn Office Equipment copier lease agreement for the Register of Deeds and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #8 by Hesson, 2nd by Wilmore to defer Billy Wilmore's request to discuss the number of County Commissioners to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Tony Wix stated that he had been contacted by an owner of one of the 3 markets located in the county regarding selling beer on Sundays.

Motion #9 by Hesson, 2nd by Hughes to allow discussions regarding county markets selling beer on Sundays and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval and/or recommendations from County Attorney Guy Holliman.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Bobby Ray King requested to discuss adding a third member as back up to the County Mayor/Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Commissioners meetings. Mayor Jones stated that he had discussed it with Attorney Holliman and stated that by law a third member could not be added. He stated that Attorney Holliman could explain further at the next meeting.

Motion #10 by Wilmore, 2nd by Hesson to allow discussion regarding a third member as back up for meetings and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval and/or recommendations from County Attorney Guy Holliman.

Motion Carried

Motion #11 by Hesson, 2nd Marshall to accept Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #12 by Hesson, 2nd Wilmore to accept Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #13 by Hesson, 2nd by Dyer to accept EMS Operational Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

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

Motion #14 by West, 2nd by Gentry to adjourn.

Motion Carried