

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

Monday February 5, 2024, 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, Kyle Petty, Wendell Jones, Jarhea Wilmore, Helen Hesson, and Larry West.

Absent: None

Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones opened the meeting.

Keith Newberry gave the Invocation.

Barry Marshall led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Jenkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty to accept minutes as presented from the 1/22/24 Legislative Body meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hughes to accept Budget Amendments #1-#13 (#1 Sheriff's Department – SRO Grant, #2 Animal Control, #3 EMA, #4 Capital Projects – Jail Addition, #5 Juvenile Court, #6 Rural Fire Protection, #7 Solid Waste, #8 County Commission, #9 Drug Fund, #10 Sheriff's Department, #11 Solid Waste, #12 County Attorney, and #13 General Purpose School) and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried, Snow voting no

Motion #3 by Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartley to defer 2-17/24 FFA Week Proclamation to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that he had spoken to the architects, and they are working on the designs of the new elementary school and vocational school to be approved and are hoping to have a cost estimate of the vocational school to bring back to the commissioners in March or April.

Motion #4 by Bartley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flippin to allow School Director Shawn Carter to bring back information about the school at the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Sheriff Joey Wilburn explained that the Jail had been approved for an Evidence Based Program (EVP) Grant. The 4 year fully funded grant is for \$533,000 and will fund 2 full time employees, Colby Lane, and Chelsea Jones, for the program. He stated that the grant contract should be ready for approval at the Legislative Body meeting.

Motion #5 by King, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenkins to allow Sheriff Wilburn to bring back the EVP Grant contract and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that the Drug Council approved funding to the Macon Drug Coalition using Opioid Settlement funds and was requesting approval by the Commission.

Motion #6 by Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilmore to allow discussions regarding the Opioid Settlement funds and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #7 by Hesson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hill to defer appointment for Judicial Commissioner to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones provided the Commissioners with the FY23 Financial Statements.

Mayor Jones explained that the topsoil at the new Administration Building would be the contractors but the dirt that came off the road would have to be moved. He stated that some of it might be used for the new Health Department and suggested giving some of it to the Lafayette Little League to put it at the new ball field with them being responsible for hauling it. He explained that any extra would have to be bid out to sell.

Motion #8 by Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hesson to allow Mayor Jones to take care of the extra dirt at the new Administration Building and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that County Attorney Guy Holliman has advised to waive building permit fees for residents where their houses had burnt or destroyed by natural disasters.

Motion #9 by Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Snow to waive building permit fees for residents where their houses had burnt or were destroyed by natural disaster and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Barry Marshall had requested to discuss the installation of road signs. Mayor Jones explained that no one is technically responsible for the installation of road name signs. He stated that the Rescue Squad, using volunteers, has always installed the signs for Macon County. Commissioner Marshall stated that he had contacted someone 15 months ago regarding a road sign and it still hadn't been installed. Mayor Jones stated that he would contact John Boxold at the Rescue Squad and discuss what could be done to get the signs installed faster. Mayor Jones stated that he would suggest discussing increasing the budget for the road signs during the Budget Committee and bringing back recommendations.

Motion #10 by Marshall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by King to allow discussions and/or recommendations about the installation of road signs and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Dan Hill had requested Macon Helps come and discuss their operations. Macon Helps Director Pam Brummitt, along with members of their board, came and explained the programs they help with in the community such as a food bank, clothing assistance, utilities assistance, terminal illness assistance, shop with a cop, donations to the fire departments and teachers, car packages, etc. Commissioner Hill asked Ms. Brummitt some questions regarding after hours assistance with released inmates and battered women. She explained that they used to provide after-hours assistance but no longer did that due to some past problems that arose. Ms. Faye Fitzpatrick stated that an organization, founded by local ministers named Matthew 25, helped with those situations. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Michael Slayton along with others thanked Macon Helps for the assistance and all they do for Macon County. No further action was necessary.

Motion #11 by West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Newberry to accept Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #12 by Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marshall to accept Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #13 by Snow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hughes 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 Petty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Slayton to adjourn.

Motion Carried