

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

Monday March 4, 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, 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.

Michael Slayton led the Pledge.

Brian Pierce and Cayce Petko representing Cope Architecture along with Jason Gibson and Gary Bennett representing Blaine Construction presented the cost estimate of \$34,700,200 for the jail addition to the Commissioners and explained that they are still working on trying to get the cost down lower from the civil scope and the food service scope. Attorney Guy Holliman stated that for the Commissioners to be able to approve a contract, there would have to be a more definite number. He also stated that the 6% owner contingency amount is higher than what he would like to see. Mr. Gibson stated that the number could be adjusted and that nothing would be spent without the county's approval. Blaine Construction stated that the project would take approximately 15 to 17 months to complete, and they would like to start in or before June 2024. Mayor Jones stated that he along with the Commissioners and Sheriff, did not want to have to have this addition but TCI stated that we are overcrowded and did not have a choice but to increase capacity. Attorney Holliman stated that if the jail addition is not done, the liability exposure continues.

Motion #1 by Bartley, 2nd by Dyer to approve the discussion on the jail addition contract with Blaine Construction and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried (Snow and Slayton – No)

Motion #2 by Hill, 2nd by Petty to allow Mayor Jones to discuss the increase in funds with USDA for the jail addition and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried (Snow – No)

Motion #3 by Hughes, 2nd by Petty to accept minutes as presented from the 2/20/24 Legislative Body meeting, 10/17/23, 11/21/23, 12/19/23 Planning Commission meeting, 10/17/23, 11/21/23, 12/19/23 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting and 2/28/24 Joint Economic meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #4 by West, 2nd by Jenkins to accept Budget Amendments #1-#17 (#1 West Macon Rescue, #2 General Sessions Court, #3 Health Department, #4 Animal Control, #5 Sheriff's Department – SRO Grant, #6 General Fund – Bridge Construction, #7 Capital Projects – Jail Addition, #8 Library, #9 EMS, #10 Drug Fund, #11 Register of Deeds, #12 Debt Service, #13 County Commission, #14 County Mayor, #15 Risk Management – Loss Control, #16 Highway Department, and #17 Register of Deeds) and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried (Snow – No)

Motion #5 by Petty, 2nd by Jenkins to defer 3-18/24 Building Permit Fee Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by King, 2nd by Jenkins to defer 3-19/24 HGAC Resolution to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

School Director Shawn Carter invited all the commissioners to the MCHS and RBSHS graduations to sit with the faculty.

Mayor Jones stated that there is a problem with the entrance at the Justice Center. It is scheduled to be repaired by the Highway Department during the last week of March due to being Spring Break week and less traffic.

Motion #7 by Newberry, 2nd by Flippin to approve Highway Department to repair entrance at the Justice Center and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Sheriff Joey Wilburn presented the Commissioners with a handout of what he estimates to be the increased costs after the jail addition is complete.

Mayor Jones stated that an Emergency Services meeting needed to be held to discuss the amount billed for fire calls and an increase in EMS rates.

Motion #8 by King, 2nd by Dyer to have an Emergency Services meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #9 by Hughes, 2nd by Petty to approve the Soil Conservation Annual Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #10 by Petty, 2nd Flippin to accept Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #11 by Willmore, 2nd Hill to accept Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #12 by West, 2nd by Marshall 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 #13 by Petty, 2nd by Jones to adjourn.

Motion Carried