

MACON COUNTY
“COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE”
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 1, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones, Commissioners Jeff Hughes, Charles (Chop) Porter, Tony Wix, Benton Bartley, Wendell Jones, Barry King, Chad West, Phillip Snow, Jarhea Wilmore, Todd Gentry, Scott Gammons, Helen Hesson, Scott Cothron, Justin Dyer, Michael Slayton, Mike Jenkins, Kyle Petty, Marcus Smith, Mchelle Phillips and Kenneth Witte.

Absent: Scott Gammons

Mayor Jones opened the meeting.

Scott Cothron gave the Invocation.

Justin Dyer led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Bartley, 2nd by Hesson to approve minutes as presented from the 6/17/19 Legislative Body Meeting, 5/14/19 Planning Commission Meeting, 4/11/19 Audit Committee Meeting and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Witte, 2nd by Jenkins to approve #4-27/2019 Highway Resolutions – Gates and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Hughes, 2nd by Smith to approve #4-28/2019 Building Resolution and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #4 by Jenkins, 2nd by Hughes to defer #6-29/2019 Appropriations Resolution, #6-30/2019 Non-Profit Resolution and #6-31/2019 Tax Levy Resolution to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones explained the county budgets that receive property tax dollars. Those funds are 116 Solid Waste, 131 Highway Department, 141 General Purpose School Funds and the 101 General Funds, which includes all departments in the county other than Solid Waste, Highway and Schools.

Mayor Jones informed the commissioners and audience about the county’s growth and how it was affecting the county. Mayor Jones said the growth is what is creating the need for a new elementary school, additions to three other schools and the additions required at the jail. He told commissioners that the General Fund budget needed almost a \$1,000,000 to cover such things as an insurance increase, decrease in ambulance service revenues, as well as other operational expenses.

After several budget meetings and lengthy discussions, a motion was made to recommend a 16.71 cent property tax increase and increase the wheel tax \$15.00 to go strictly to the General Funds. Together it would generate approximately \$987,516 of new revenues.

As an example, for every \$100,000 on a residential home, the property tax would increase approximately \$50.13.

Mayor Jones explained that 75% of the wheel tax goes to Debt Service, which pays the county's debt. And 25% went to the General Funds. The Debt Services receives approximately \$1,100,000 and the General Fund receives approximately \$330,000.

Sherriff Gammons reported that the state prisoners being housed in the Macon County jail were either from Macon County or had been charged for crimes in Macon County. Sheriff Gammons also said the funds generated from state prisoners should pay for the jail addition as well as some of the operational cost.

The half cent sales tax referendum that was approved during the election will bring in half of the elementary school payment. The school is estimated to cost approximately \$31,000,000. The half cent sales tax is equal to approximately 24 cents of property tax.

Director Boles presented the request to the commissioners that the Board wanted the county to pay the remainder of the payment for the new elementary school.

Director Boles reported on the growth to the school system and the issues that it has caused.

Mayor Jones then asked the commissioners what they wanted to do.

Attorney Guy Holliman spoke up and said that the commissioners have lots to look over and think about. He suggested that they meet next week and discuss options.

A town hall meeting has been set for July 9th at 6:00 P.M. at MCJH.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Jones asked what the will of the body was.

Motion #5 by Witte, 2nd by Hughes was to defer the discussion until July 8th at 6:00 P.M. Budget Meeting. The committee invited the School Board Members to attend the meeting.
Motion Carried

Sheriff Gammons mentioned that everyone needs to complete the census. This is how the county gets some of their funding.

Motion #6 by Hesson, 2nd by Jenkins to defer the EMS collections to a future meeting. This will allow the EMS Director and Mayor to come back with totals.
Motion Carried

Motion #7 by Hesson, 2nd by Smith to defer the Red Boiling Springs agreement to the next meeting for Codes/Zoning.
Motion Carried

Motion #8 by Bartley, 2nd by Hughes to approve the Building Codes/Impact Fee report and defer to the next meeting.
Motion Carried

Motion #9 by Gentry, 2nd by Jenkins to approve the Animal Control report and defer to the next meeting.
Motion Carried

Motion #10 by Hughes, 2nd by Dyer to set the Legislative Body Meeting for July 29th at 6:30 P.M. to allow for a 10-day notice for the budgets.
Motion Carried

Motion #11 by Witte, 2nd by Jenkins to adjourn.
Motion Carried