

MACON COUNTY
“COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE”
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, January 9, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor/Chairman Steve Jones, Commissioners Kimmy Warf, Jeff Hughes, Helen Hesson, Benton Bartley, Scott Gammons, Justin Dyer, Kenneth Witte, Mike Jenkins, Charles (Chop) Porter, Troy Brawner, Bobby Ray King, Don Stevens, Chris Wix, Phillip Snow, Barry King, Shannon Wix, Wendell Jones and Mchelle Phillips

Absent: Bryan Carter and Todd Gentry

Jeff Hughes gave the Invocation.

Troy Brawner led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Hesson, 2nd by Gammons to approve minutes as presented from the 12/19/16 Legislative Body Meeting, 9/20/16 Planning Public Hearing, 10/18/16 Planning Commission Meeting, 11/15/16 Planning Commission Meeting, 11/29/16 Joint Economic & Community Development Meeting and the 12/12/16 Audit Committee Meeting and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Gammons, 2nd by Jenkins to approve Budget Amendment #1 through #8 (#1 Civil Defense, #2 EMS, #3 Sheriff Department, #4 Planning, #5 Solid Waste, #6 Health Department, #7 Other Charges, #8 Sheriff Department – Comp Time) and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Hughes, 2nd by Gammons to approve Resolution #1-83/2017 School Board Week and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Director of Schools, Tony Boles gave a report from the School Board Building overcrowding meeting. The School Board members requested that the County Commissioners totally fund the new Elementary school without any help from the school funds. The General Purpose School will use their BEP and general fund money to add 6-8 classrooms and an addition to the cafeteria at MCHS, add 6 classrooms and an addition to the cafeteria at MCJH, and also other projects that the School Board has planned.

Mr. Boles said that the new Elementary school would be for grades 2nd through 5th. Fairlane would become Pre-K and Kindergarten. Central would become CDC and 1st grade. Lafayette Elementary would become the new Board of Education building. The cost of the new school would be approximately \$24,000,000.00. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Jones informed the commissioners that Macon County is noted for having a low cost of living compared to Sumner and Wilson counties. Mayor Jones stated this is one of the reasons Macon County schools has an increase of 280 more students than last year.

Mayor Jones said the increase of citizens moving to Macon County creates the need for the additional school.

Law Enforcement reports show Macon County's crime rate has more than doubled since 2012. Mayor Jones said that no one wants to have to add an addition to the jail, but the State has cited us for being overcrowded and understaffed. Macon County has formed a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) committee to meet with the State to develop a correction plan which may include an addition to the jail. County Technical Assistance Services (CTAS) is currently doing a needs study which will give the county a better knowledge of what will need to be done to meet State guidelines.

Mayor Jones stated both the new school and jail needs would have to be addressed by the County Commissioners. Mayor Jones said the County Commissioners and School Board were going to have to work together to come up with a plan on how to fund the projects.

Sheriff Gammons updated the commissioners regarding the CCP meetings. The committee is working on a plan for the jail overcrowding, such as adding programs for the inmates. Sheriff Gammons said that he had a plan to pay for the addition to the jail. He said by increasing state inmates in the jail, the money would not have to come from the county funds.

Mayor Jones reported that the Valley Ridge building was vacant. He said that water had to be turned off due to unfixable heating issues. The AA group will continue to meet in the basement until other arrangements can be made.

Mayor Jones mentioned that a leak in the bathrooms at the UCHRA building caused some water damage. This will be turned in to the insurance company and a budget amendment will be brought back for the \$500 deductible.

Motion #4 by Gammons, 2nd by Hesson to allow Mayor Jones to appoint the Courtroom Security Committee, which consists of the County Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, Judge and Clerk appointed by the Judge and defer to the next meeting.
Motion Carried

Motion #5 by Stevens, 2nd by Hughes to approve the Codes Enforcement/Impact Fee report and defer to the next meeting.
Motion Carried

Motion #6 by Witte, 2nd by Dyer to begin the budget process in February and bring back a schedule of the budget dates for approval. The General Purpose Schools will present a budget in June to the Budget Committee due to reports on BEP funding received in June.
Motion Carried

A Fleetwood report was given to the commissioners.

Commissioners received a thank you letter from the Veteran's Services and the Historical Society regarding donations.

New Business: The following discussions ensued with no motions made.

Mayor Jones said that the 2015 Waterline was almost complete. He also said that they were in the beginning phase of the 2017 Waterline.

Mayor Jones mentioned that the Solid Waste received their \$50,000 grant.

Commissioners asked questions regarding wheel tax and property tax increases that would be needed to build a new school and jail. County growth and renter's tax was also mentioned. Discussion ensued.

Motion #7 by Gammons, 2nd by S. Wix to adjourn.

Motion Carried