

MACON COUNTY
“COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE”
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, July 3, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Chris Wix and Scott Gammons

Jeff Hughes gave the Invocation.

Phillip Snow led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Witte, 2nd by Dyer to approve minutes as presented from the 6/19/17 Legislative Body Meeting, 5/16/17 Planning Commission Meeting, 3/6/17, 3/13/17, 3/27/17, 4/3/17, 4/10/17, 4/17/17, 4/24/17, 5/1/17, 5/15/17, 6/5/17, 6/19/17, 6/26/17 Budget Committee Meetings and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Witte, 2nd by Jenkins to defer 7-1/2017 Keith Sircy property zoning resolution to the public hearing at the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by Hughes, 2nd by S. Wix to defer the General Purpose Schools Federal Project Fund resolution to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #4 by B. King, 2nd by Bartley to defer Appropriations resolution to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #5 by Bartley, 2nd by Warf to defer the Nonprofit Charitable Organization resolution to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by Witte, 2nd by Warf to defer the Tax Levy resolution to the next meeting.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Motion #7 by Hesson, 2nd B. King to defer the Mary's Lane speed limit petition to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #8 by W. Jones, 2nd B. King to suspend the rules and approve the Hightop Lane request to correct measurements for the road list.

Motion Carried

Motion #9 by Hesson, 2nd by B. King to correct the measurements by adding 1/10 for the Hightop Lane to the county road list.

Motion Carried

Motion #10 by Stevens, 2nd Warf to approve the Codes Enforcement/Impact report and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #11 by Warf, 2nd by Jenkins to approve the Animal Control report and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Motion #12 by Hesson, 2nd by B. King to defer the Tax Abatement and Waivers discussion to Attorney Holliman at the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Discussion ensued regarding waterlines and building maintenance for the county. Mayor Jones explained that Macon County was at a point where we would no longer be able to be competitive in getting CDBG grants for waterlines due to the length and cost. Mayor Jones said he would like to see funding set up to install water lines that previous grants did not cover and extend water to areas that we can't get grants for. Mayor Jones also told the commissioners that there were no additional funds in the budget for unexpected building maintenance.

Mayor Jones told the Legislative Body that the next thing on the agenda would be to discuss the 2017-2018 tax rate. Mayor Jones told the Commissioners he had talked with several Mayors in the Upper Cumberland and most of them had already set their budget or would in July. He mentioned that the State Comptroller is wanting budgets to be passed in July. The law states that all budgets must be passed by the end of August unless you have specific approval from the Comptroller's office.

Mayor Jones explained the General Fund Fund Balance and the Debt Service Fund Balance. Mayor Jones started the budget discussion by telling commissioners they were using the General Fund Budget's Fund Balance to balance the budget. He said that Fund Balance is what the county operates on between July and October until the new tax funds start coming in. Mayor Jones said he did not want to raise taxes but he did not want the county to get into financial trouble.

Mayor Jones gave the Legislative Body a breakdown of some of the increases in expenditures throughout the year. He said a total of 27¢ is needed to cover the increases without taking funds out of the General Funds Fund Balance. The last tax increase was in 2013 when the taxes were raised 15¢. The Mayor said he had been told that raising the tax rate 1¢ equals to approximately \$ 2.50 yearly at the present tax rate. This is based on a one hundred thousand dollar property assessment. Raising the tax rate 10¢ would cost that property owner approximately \$22.50 per year.

Mayor Jones told the Commissioners they did not have to raise the tax rate but if they didn't the County could get into financial trouble if there were any unexpected expenses during the year. The Mayor said he felt it was his responsibility to make sure the county did not get into financial trouble. Mayor Jones told the Commissioners it was their decision to decide what was best for the County.

Mayor Jones explained to the commissioners that the budget committee had worked on the budget in 12 different meetings. He said the Budget Committee had reviewed each budget with its department head. Some budgets were cut and some had additions. Mayor Jones said the majority of the budget committee recommended a 12¢ increase to help offset the 27¢ needed.

Motion #13 by Warf, 2nd by Witte to increase the tax rate 12¢, which will make the tax rate \$2.52 and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Motion #14 by Warf, 2nd by B. King to approve the County budgets and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Motion #15 by Witte, 2nd by W. Jones to approve the debt schedule and defer to the next meeting.

Motion Carried on Roll Call

Motion #16 by Hughes, 2nd by Dyer to defer the next Committee of the Whole meeting to August 14th due to the Macon County Fair.

Motion Carried

Under any other business:

The Arts Council Sundial Mural Dedication will be held July 7th at 10:00 A.M.

The Macon County Fair Opening Ceremony will be held August 7th at 5:30 P.M.

Motion #17 by Warf, 2nd by Jenkins to adjourn.

Motion Carried