

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

Monday, May 3rd, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Todd Gentry

Mayor Jones opened the meeting.

Michael Slayton gave the Invocation.

Helen Hesson led the Pledge.

Motion #1 by Hesson, 2nd by Jenkins to accept minutes as presented from the 4/19/21 Legislative Body meeting, 4/7/21 EFSP, 4/7/21 JECDB meeting, and 4/19/21 Budget meeting and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #2 by Gammons, 2nd by Jenkins to accept Budget Amendments #1 through #14 (#1 Solid Waste, #2 Sheriff's Department, #3 County Coroner/Medical Examiner, #4 Workforce Development, #5 EMS, #6 County Commission, #7 Sheriff's Department, #8 Sex Offender Registry, #9 Circuit Court Clerk, #10 Animal Control, #11 Board of Education, #12 Capital Projects-CDBG Waterline Project, #13 Health Department, and #14 Solid Waste) and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #3 by West, 2nd by King to defer #4-33/21 Hospital Week Proclamation to the Legislative Body meeting for ratification.

Motion Carried

School Director Tony Boles stated that the RBS school project is on schedule for completion, but the Jr. High project is running slightly behind schedule but will be completed before the next school year starts. Commissioner Jarhea Wilmore ask to get clarification on how the land for the new elementary school was being paid for. Mr. Boles stated that 77 acres was being paid for using the ½ cent sales tax and the Board of Education was paying for the additional 24.84 acres. Commissioner Jeff Hughes ask Mr. Boles about the bus driver shortage problem. Mr. Boles stated that he had a proposal, in hopes it would help with the shortage, that he would present at the same time he presents the School Board budget.

Sheriff Mark Gammons stated that he was working on getting protective eyewear for all the officers. He also stated he is working with Legislators to give all emergency services workers, that has worked through the COVID-19 pandemic, 3 years added to their retirement.

Motion #4 by West, 2nd by Dyer to allow discussion with Sheriff Gammons about extra retirement for emergency services workers at a later Legislative Body meeting.

Motion Carried

Wynona Clayborne representing the Library Board spoke to the Commissioners about Library Director Dana Richardson's salary. She explained that in 2017 it was requested that Mrs. Richardson receive \$10,381 after completing a certification with receiving \$5,000 in the FY18-19 budget, which she received. In November 2019, she received the certification and the remaining \$5,381 was presented to the Commissioners in the FY20-21 library budget proposal. Mayor Jones stated that her salary was entered incorrectly in FY20-21 budget and a budget amendment was made to correct it when it was discovered but the total of \$203,628 for library budget was the same. The Library Board has submitted FY21-22 proposed budget to include an additional increase of \$4,619 to make her salary \$43,121.

Motion #5 by Snow, 2nd by Dyer send the FY21/22 proposed Library budget back to the Budget Committee and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #6 by Gammons, 2nd by Jenkins to defer a resolution to designate funding for impact fee increase to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #7 by Gammons, 2nd by West to defer RBS Little League donation request to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Mickey Harp representing the Macon Trap Team came before the Commissioners requesting a \$3,000 donation for their upcoming season. It will be funded out of the General Fund's fund balance.

Motion #8 by Slayton, 2nd by Dyer to donate \$3,000 to the Macon Trap Team and defer to the Legislative Body for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones stated that Macon County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) had lost 8 employees due to various reasons. Mayor Jones stated he had been told there was possibly a petition to not close the Westside Base. Mayor Jones said he had told everyone there had been no discussion or there was no intention of closing the Westside EMS base. Base closures are simply due to not having the staff to cover them. Mayor Jones stated that he had spoken to the EMS Director Randy Carter and they had discussed giving the ambulance staff a \$1 per hour raise to help maintain the current staffing which is already in the FY20-21 EMS budget. Mayor Jones also talked to the commissioners about his plan to improve the insurance benefits for all county employees. The EMS Director said he felt like the raise and increased insurance benefits would help maintain the current staff.

Motion #9 by Dyer, 2nd by West to authorize EMS, EMT and Paramedic crew members to receive a \$1 per hour raise and defer to the Legislative Body for approval.

Motion Carried

Mayor Jones spoke to the Commissioners about the State of TN Medical Insurance Plan that the County departments had inquired about. He explained with the current plan the cost to the County is \$952.91 per month for single coverage. Macon County currently pays 85% of a single coverage which is approximately \$810. The cost for the State of TN plan would cost the County \$698 per month for single coverage. Mayor Jones stated that if the County changed to the State

of TN insurance plan, the County would save enough money to pay 100% of the employee's insurance including vision and dental.

Motion #10 by Gammons, 2nd by Dyer to authorize Mayor Jones to change the current employee's medical insurance plan to the State of TN medical insurance plan and pay 100% of the employee's portion of single coverage for medical, vision and dental insurance and defer to Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #11 by Gammons, 2nd Jenkins to accept the Building Codes/Impact Fee Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Motion #12 by Petty, 2nd by Hughes to accept the Animal Control Report and defer to the Legislative Body meeting for approval.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Benton Bartley asked if the spending guidelines had been released yet on the \$4.7M that is coming from the federal government. Mayor Jones stated that there is a meeting scheduled with the Comptroller's office on May 11, 2021 to discuss the funds.

Commissioner Ken Witte stated he had received phone calls from residents on Clampit Hollow Rd requesting that if there was any money available for waterlines they would like to be added to the list.

Commissioner Kyle Petty stated he had received a phone call about 39.5 acres of the Jackie Smith property on Sneed Blvd being for sale for \$1.5M if the County was interested in purchasing land.

Motion #13 by Gammons, 2nd by Slayton to adjourn.

Motion Carried