

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on June 30th, 2015

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on June 30th, 2015. All members, with the exception of Member Haithcock, are present. Also present are Jim Tate, Macon County Commissioner; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; Lori Hall, Macon County Finance Director; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Neil Hoppe and Peggy Milton, airport FBO; Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press, and David Phillips, citizen. Mr. Phillips arrived after the public comment session time slot, but was allowed to address the MCAA regarding concerns during the “other business” period.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD MAY 26TH, 2015: After a discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: FBO Neil Hoppe reports that there is a light that is not working at the front gate and the front door to the terminal building is not working. Chair Gregory will address these maintenance issues.

FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE MCAA FY2015-2016 BUDGET: Macon County Finance Director, Lori Hall, distributes the budget for the Macon County Airport Authority as adopted by the Macon County Commissioners. Ms. Hall explains that the budget will consist of \$47,000.00 total, with \$40,000.00 provided by Macon County government and \$7,000.00 provided by sales and rentals as determined by the Franklin Aviation lease. This budget amount is the same as last fiscal year, with a requested increase of \$9,000.00 denied. Member Schmitt inquires as to whether the budget can be increased at this date to include the additional funding, with Ms. Hall explaining that the budget has now been adopted and cannot be increased at this time, but that budget amendments within line items is allowed. After further discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to approve the budget as presented by Ms. Hall, and as adopted by the Macon County Commissioners. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The budget ordinance is signed by Chairman Gregory. Ms. Hall states that she will be providing the audit report in a few months.

ENGINEERING REPORT: Mr. Luther, Project Engineer, presents the engineering report and states that the purchase orders for the rotating beacon and AWOS system have been issued. He continues by stating that although the rotating beacon can be installed in one (1) day, there is a three (3) week delivery time for the beacon itself. Mr. Luther continues the report by stating that three (3) obstruction lights are “up and running” and that the electrician is

continuing to work on the remaining lights. Mr. Luther addresses the concerns regarding the cracks in the asphalt, which he and Member Rhodes examined today. Mr. Luther reports that the contractor states that this is not a construction issue, but Member Rhodes, as well as the rest of the authority disagree. Member Rhodes states that there is a one (1) year warranty on this project, which will be up in October. Mr. Luther states that he will continue discussions with the contractor and that this issue will be addressed more thoroughly before October, 2015. He continues by stating that the warranty is tied to the bond until October 14th, 2015. Chair Gregory asks that Member Rhodes continue to work with Mr. Luther in addressing this issue.

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS FOR MCAA-EXPIRED TERMS: After a discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to re-appoint Member Jenkins and Member Rhodes to six (6) year terms as members of the Macon County Airport Authority. Chair Gregory seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

APPOINTMENT OF MCAA CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR: Member Jenkins makes a nomination to re-appoint Chair Gregory to another term as Chairman of the Macon County Airport Authority. Member Jenkins continues by stating that Chair Gregory has done an excellent job with the airport authority, and that he works very well with other authority members. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Chair Gregory thanks the MCAA for their continued support, thanks the County Commissioners for their cooperation with and support of the airport and the MCAA and states that there is still a lot of work to be done. Member Jenkins also makes a motion to re-appoint Gary Schmitt as the vice-chair of the Macon County Airport Authority. Again, Member Jenkins compliments Vice-Chair Schmitt on his hard work for the authority and his level of cooperation with other authority members. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Member Jenkins also makes a motion to re-appoint Member Haithcock as Secretary-Treasurer of the Macon County Airport Authority. He continues by stating that Member Haithcock has done a very good job and is very vigilant regarding his duties. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Each of the offices referenced above are for two (2) year terms.

DISCUSSION/PLANNING OF OPEN HOUSE: Chair Gregory asks for a report regarding the open house planning from committee members Member Schmitt and Member Rhodes. They state that a tentative date of August 22nd has been set. However, Commissioner Tate states that this is not a "good" date in that the county commissioners have a meeting scheduled for that date. However, Commissioner Tate continues by stating that the open house is an event that the commissioners would want to attend and that the airport brings revenue into the county and

some citizens are unaware of the airport's status as being unique and special. Commissioner Tate continues by stating that county government may have some funds available to assist in sponsoring the event. Member Rhodes then continues the report by stating that he has spoken with "Roadside Eats", who are willing to set up and be available for food purchase on the open house date. Chair Gregory states that, in his experience, the best way to draw someone to this type of event is to offer free food. He states that he would like to see the open house include a free hotdog, chips, and drink etc. He also states that he would like to have a helicopter available for purchased rides by interested parties. The discussion continues with the statement that a crowd of 500 should be planned for, which will include dignitaries who will be issued invitations. Providing parking for this size crowd is discussed, and it is determined that the adjacent field will need to be mowed for parking, and the use of traffic control people will need to be obtained. It is discussed that law enforcement may be able to assist with this matter. The planning will continue, and the committee will present a status report at the next scheduled meeting.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON FENCE MAINTENANCE ISSUE: Chair Gregory states that the perimeter fence is so overgrown that he is concerned that the fence will be damaged. He asks Commissioner Tate and Project Engineer, Jimmy Luther if there is any funding, either from county government or through DOA funding that might be available for clearing the overgrowth on the fence. Mr. Luther states that this is a maintenance issue which is normally not funded by the Division of Aviation, but he will touch base with Mr. Yap, the Project Manager at the DOA. Chair Gregory will also inform Commissioner Tate through an e-mail about the issues involving the fencing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. David Phillips, a pilot who regularly utilizes the airport is present to voice his concerns regarding the disrepair of the AWOS system, as well as the rotating beacon and the obstruction lights. Ms. McDowell explains the status of the relevant grant which will be utilized to address these issues, and explains that it was very recently approved by the Division of Aviation and is now available. Mr. Phillips strongly suggests that the lack of these systems is negligent on the authority's part, with Ms. McDowell explaining that the MCAA does not merely "ask" for the funding, but that there is a process which has to be adhered to, involving the MCAA, Macon County Commissioners and finance office and the Division of Aviation. She states that this process has been followed and documented, and that there is no negligence on the part of any of these agencies. Ms. McDowell continues by explaining that the recently approved grant will provide funding for a new AWOS system, rather than a repair, the replacement of the rotating beacon, and the continued repair of the seven obstruction lights, on which work has already begun. Chair Gregory asks that in the future, Mr. Phillips contact the MCAA directly rather than

communicating his concerns through the Macon County Commissioners. He continues by stating that the authority can give him accurate information, is willing to provide updates, and that it is the courteous “thing to do”. Member Rhodes, who is also a pilot, assures Mr. Phillips that everything that can be done, has been done by the authority up to this point, and that these repairs/replacements are well on the way to getting done. Chair Gregory thanks Mr. Phillips for attending and voicing his concerns, and asks him to feel free to attend the MCAA meetings and to e-mail him directly.

There is a discussion regarding the removal of a tree on the approach end of the runway. Member Haithcock will look into this.

Member Jenkins presents documentation regarding an issue with the leasing of property for the erection of a cell tower. He brings documentation from two different citizens, one of which was allowed, and one of which was denied. He asks Mr. Luther to review and see if he could determine the reasoning. Mr. Luther states that this issue is with the FAA, not the Division of Aviation and that the determination will be through the FAA. Chair Gregory asks Ms. McDowell to forward this information to the DOA Project Manager, Basil Yap.

There being no further business to conduct, Member Rhodes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary