

MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Minutes of the Meeting Held on September 24th, 2024

The Macon County Airport Authority meets at the Macon County Airport for their regular meeting on September 24th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. All members with the exception of Member Shuler and Member Rhodes are present. Also present are: Gary Shields, County Commissioner; Jimmy Luther, W.K. Dickson; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Sabrina Crone, Airport Manager and Jim Rogers, member of the public. Chair Schmitt welcomes those present, and calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD AUGUST 27TH, 2024: After a brief discussion, Member Horton makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

OLD BUSINESS:

ENGINEERS REPORT: Mr. Jimmy Luther is present, as Mr. Kershaw is unavailable. He reports that as of January 2025, W.K. Dickson will be a division of Ardurra Company, which is headquartered in Miami, Fl. This change has resulted in a large increase in staff. There should be no changes to the contract with the Macon County Airport Authority, and Mr. Luther anticipates no changes in services offered and utilized by the Macon County Airport Authority. Mr. Luther reports that the Division of Aviation staff is “pushing back” on both the hangar area development and the land acquisition projects. The reason appears to be that these projects are not on the airport plan. He continues by stating that the environmental permits are the continuing problem with the projects. He will continue communicating with the DOA, and will keep the authority posted.

BRUSH CLEARING REPORT/(WILDLIFE/CLEAN-UP-DEFERRED MAINTENANCE): Member Haithcock reports that there are new standards for fencing at airports. He states that new fencing protocol will require barbed wire on top and to be buried underground. He also asks if the creek banks can be stabilized with rock. Member Haithcock continues by stating that the county should provide an environmental person who should be allowed to maintain the property line.

NEW BUSINESS:

RILES PROPERTY DISCUSSION/CONTRACT: Legal Counsel Stuart Sloan was unable to attend the meeting but sent an updated e-mail. He states that he has spoken to the owner of the Riles property, and that he is willing to allow the airport authority to do whatever due diligence they would like to do including drilling test holes and an appraisal. The e-mail states that the owner is emphatic that the appraisal should be done with future airport use in mind. Mr. Sloan states that he explained that the appraiser may put some weight on the airport use, but it is to assess overall market value, not just potential buyer’s use. The owner continues by stating that if he cannot get enough purchase money to cover the replacement cost of a building on his property that he would not sell. Engineer Jimmy Luther states that the state will only

pay the appraised value. He continues by stating that there are many hoops to jump through to be reimbursed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION REGARDING FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ms. Crone reports that a question has come up regarding payments by the FBO to the authority. She states that a question has been asked in that the FBO accountants need to know if the rent should be excluded from the net income payment. This would result in a lessening of funds to the airport. This particular matter is not addressed in the lease per Ms. Sloan. The authority decides this question should be forwarded to Mr. Sloan as legal counsel for an answer. They have granted more time for the reports submittal until an answer is provided.

Member Horton states that he would like to see the airport involved in an Open House event. Ms. Crone suggests that the best time for this event would be in the spring. She also states she will need volunteers in order to provide the event.

Chair Schmitt states that he has complaints regarding the height of the grass at the airport.

The VirTower reporting system is working very well and is helpful according to Ms. Crone.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Horton makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary