

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

April 28, 2016

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Danny Palmer chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Ferrell Ruis, Dollie Crumley, Henry Crumley, Billy Poppell, Raymond Breaux, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Glenda Battle, Jerry Bush, Carlos Williams, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, and Randy Hill.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Charlie Williams, Paul Nagy, Revonn Miller, Tommie Postell, Anthony Jones, Allen Baggs, Ray Prince, Ben Hayward, Brenda Peterson, Ed Wade, Terry Scott, Jeanie Crittenden, Mike Cosby, Karen Rackley and David Mosely.

Council members absent were Matt Bryan, Dennis Brinson, Bennie Watts Jones, Rick Muggridge, Chad Griffin, Ernest Johnson, Elaine Mays, and Courtney Brinson.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Senior Planner Barbara Reddick, Grants Administrator Brenda Wade, Planning Assistant Beka Shiver, GIS Assistant Jeff Hamilton and Administrative Assistant Heather White.

Guests present were Mrs. Speight, Mrs. Sol, Ms. Holly Hunt, and Ms. Gina Webb.

Chairman Danny Palmer called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 22 members present representing 13 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Early County and Miller County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Mr. Palmer then asked that March minutes be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Henry Crumley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mr. Henry Crumley gave the Environmental Committee Report. He stated that the Environmental Committee decided to meet two times a year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall, unless special circumstances arose where they would need to meet more often.

Mr. Palmer gave the Audit Committee Report. He stated that an Audit Committee meeting was held Tuesday, April 27, 2016 at noon. Five committee members were present which constituted a quorum. This was a routine meeting to review financial reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2016. Suzanne reviewed the individual fund results with the committee; financial results for the period were good with surpluses better than the projected budget. It was also noted that the fund balance reserves were up above the \$300,000 target. Mr. Jimmy Douglas reviewed the bank reconciliations and test transactions for the period; no irregularities were found in his review. The next scheduled audit committee meeting will be in July and our independent auditors (Valenti, Rackley & Associates) will meet with the committee in order to begin work on the FY16 audit.

Robert McDaniel presented Suzanne Angell's staff report in her absence. General Fund has a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$78,551.36. Reserves at March 31, 2016 were \$325,012.09. The Revolving Loan Fund has a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$2,792.00. Reserves at March 31, 2016 were \$309,135.24. A new loan was made in March 2016 to Robinson's Tae Kwon Do in Bainbridge in the amount of \$20,000.

The Transportation Fund has a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$9,834.11. Reserves at March 31, 2016 were \$139,569.85 The Defined Benefit Plan (Pension Trust Fund) continues to suffer a loss on investments for the fiscal year (YTD loss: \$7,354.75); however, the YTD loss through February 28 was \$48,181.49 so it improved greatly with a \$40,826.74 gain in March. This is a product of market conditions. There was a total of \$928,334.33 invested in the fund at March 31, 2016. He stated that the Regional Commission is on track to successfully make the minimum required contribution for the year. Dwight Hickman moved that the Financial Reports be approved for March 2016 and Mitchell Blanks seconded, all approved.

Barbara Reddick gave the Planning Report for March 2016. She discussed how they submitted 2016 Community Development Block Grant applications for the following communities; Arlington, Newton, Poulan, Bronwood, Funston, and Calhoun. Ms. Reddick also stated that they have submitted five Community HOME Investment Program applications including Coolidge, Dawson, Dougherty, Meigs, and Coolidge. Other Grants that have been applied for are Assistance to Firefighters Grant on behalf of Baker County and two Immediate Threat and Danger Grants for Meigs and Poulan. Poulan has been approved. There has also been a Housing Preservation Grant that was submitted March 14, 2016. Baker County, Albany/Dougherty, and Calhoun County's Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed. Decatur County's is in progress and Worth and Mitchell County's are being reviewed by FEMA. The Planning Department completed their Complete Streets Training Program both in Albany and Camilla. The Youth Summit was held February 17th, 2016. There were 120 students that attended from six schools. Ms. Reddick deferred to her Planning Report for more detail on other areas the Planning Department are working on.

Guest Speaker Holly Hunt who is the Program Manager for the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) gave a presentation to the Council. She stated that there are small business loans available through her agency that will work in cooperation with an applicant's bank. She stated that her organization will walk applicants through the loan process.

Nominations were taken from the Council during the meeting to fill the vacant Council Appointment on the Ethics Committee that was formerly held by Luther Clearman. The only nomination was by Jack Powell for Henry Crumley to fill the position. With no other nominations a vote was taken. Dwight Hickman made the motion to accept Henry Crumley as the Council's appointment to the Ethics Committee and Donnie Baggett seconded the motion. All approved.


Mr. McDaniel stated that the next meeting will be at the Regional Commission offices in Camilla on May 26, 2016.

With no further business, Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



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Danny Palmer, Chairman



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Robert McDaniel, Secretary