

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

June 25, 2015

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 25, 2015, at the Best Western in Thomasville, Georgia. Vice-Chairman Glenda Battle chaired the meeting. The following Council members were present: Kevin Coker, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Watts Jones, Dollie Crumley, Henry Crumley, Dennis Brinson, Revonn Miller, Tommie Postell, Raymond Breaux, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Jerry Bush, Carlos Williams, Luther Clearman, Ben Hayward, Brenda Peterson, Ernest Johnson, Jack Powell, Elaine Mays, Donnie Baggett, Alfred Bryan, and Randy Hill.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Betty Murdock, Ferrell Ruis, Nahaniel Clark, Ray Prince, Rick Muggridge, Robert Ramsey, Danny Palmer, Darrell Hampton, Virginia Harrison, Max Beverly, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Paul Nagy, Clinton Johnson, Haryl Dabney, Benjamin Brooks, Christopher Wright, Mike Cosby, Karen Rackley and David Mosely.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Senior Planner, Barbara Reddick, Planner Kerrie Davis, and Administrative Assistant Heather White.

Guests present were Michael Roberts with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), LaFaye Copeland, Mrs. Dennis Brinson, Wiley Grady, Herschel Ansley, Mark NeSmith, Mrs. Sellers, Mrs. Speight, Don Sims, Merrill Baker, Cicily Florence, Mrs. Sol, David Lewis, Mrs. Bryan, Mr. Peterson, Moses Gross, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Hutchins, Dr. Dunnivan, and Ms. Hopkins.

Vice-Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:14 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 29 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker County, Early County, Decatur County and Miller County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Glenda Battle asked that the May minutes be approved. Henry Crumley motioned the minutes be accepted and Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mr. McDaniel introduced Michael Roberts, the Clean Water Program Manager from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). Mr. Roberts briefed the Council on low interest rate loans for water and sewer line replacements offered through GEFA water line replacement. He stated the original purpose of GEFA was to finance waste water treatment plants for communities. Taking methane out of a landfill to generate power and solar initiatives are some examples of projects that can be eligible for a GEFA loan. He mentioned that there is a loan forgiveness application for eligible counties and discussed some of the criteria to be considered eligible for loan forgiveness. Mr. McDaniel stated that there would be contact information for Mr. Roberts on the SWGRC website.

Glenda Battle called Barbara Reddick up to give her staff report for the Planning Department. The Planning Department is in the process of completing some contracts for the Department of Community Affairs. They have also applied for some grants. Ms. Reddick then deferred to planner, Kerrie Davis to discuss the DCA Homeless Count report for the 2015 year. Seven counties participated. They collected a combined total of 284 surveys. The numbers for homelessness has gone up since the last homeless count. She encouraged the Council to join the Homeless Coalition.

Suzanne Angell reviewed the May financial reports with the Council. For the month of May the General Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of a little over \$10,000. That brings the year to date revenues over expenditures to \$106,215. The total reserves in the general fund are \$248,947.98. The Transportation Fund for

the month of May had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$3310.94. The year to date Transportation revenues over expenditures are \$30,571.04 and the reserves in the transportation fund are \$124,142. Glenda Battle asked for a motion to approve the May Financial Report. Donnie Baggett motioned that the May financial statement be approved and Henry Crumley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Suzanne Angell reported that the Council had been given thirty days to review the FY 16 Preliminary Budget. Jack Powell moved to adopt the Preliminary FY16 Budget as presented and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Robert McDaniel gave the Executive Director's Report. He stated that the next meeting will be in Camilla. The meeting will be on July 30, 2015 at the regular time.

With no further business, Ms. Battle asked for a motion to adjourn. Donnie Baggett made the motion and Jack Powell seconded the motion, all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Danny Palmer, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary