

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

December 17, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, December 17, 2020, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to COVID19 social distancing orders from the Governor, we held a virtual meeting by ZOOM and by phone. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting and was present. The following council members were present via ZOOM: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Casawn Lhuillier-Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, E. Dice Roberts, Christopher Wheeler, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Ferrell Ruis and Phillip Drew.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Deidre Evans-Severson, Virginia Hart, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Freddy Grimsley, Freddie Speight, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Kregg Freeman, Jayme Smith, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, John McPhaul, and Rodney Prince.

Guests include Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley and Associates, Myrtle Habersham, AARP Age Friendly Ambassador and Kay Sibetta, State Director of AARP Age Friendly Program and Scott Stephenson of Albany.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Grants Administration Manager Brenda Wade.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 6:08 p.m.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. Mitchell and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Ms. Mays asked for a motion that the October 2020 meeting minutes to be approved. Glenda Battle motioned the minutes be accepted and John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays said that the Audit Committee met before the council meeting to review the Annual Audit Report presented by Valenti, Rackley & Associates. The Audit Committee voted to present the audit to the full council. Nick Valenti presented the audit via Zoom to the Council. He said the audit was clean with no findings. There was no non-compliance or inefficiency in controls. Mrs. Mays asked for a motion to accept the Audit Report. Raymond Breaux made the motion to accept the annual audit as presented by Mr. Valenti. Al Hutchinson seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to present Planning Report. No grants were written this month but the CDBG and CHIP grant applications will be coming up in 2021. Several Hazard Mitigation Plans are being worked on and are in various stages. The CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) was submitted to EDA (Economic Development Administration) on time. There have been eight micro-loan fund applications (CARES Act) submitted. Five of these applications have been approved by the loan board and will be moved toward closing. A new intern will be starting in January working one day a week, on Fridays. We have four new contracts and five that are under way. AARP's Ms. Myrtle Habersham and Ms. Kay Sibetta are visiting on ZOOM because we are currently working on becoming designated as an Age Friendly "Region", the first age-friendly region in the nation. We have a copy of the resolution and letter of intent to begin the process. Ms. Reddick stated that she and Ms. Angell will be making "age-friendly" presentations to the County Commissions in

the region and hoping that all fourteen counties will approve a resolution to support the program. We have already received resolutions of support from Dougherty and Calhoun Counties. Ms. Glenda Battle made a motion to submit the letter and resolution to AARP. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion. All agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented the Financial Reports for the period ending October 31, 2020 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a surplus of \$14,271.76 bringing the ending fund balance to \$534,781.60. The Revolving Loan Fund had a surplus of \$257.48 bringing the ending fund balance to \$299,205.48. The Regional Transportation Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$732,189.54 bringing the ending fund balance to \$1,051,164.33. The Regional Partner's Network has a deficit of \$55.00 bringing their fund balance to \$7,225.08. The Pension Trust Fund had a surplus of \$26,589.59 bringing the balance to \$886,991.56. Gain on investments in the Pension Fund this year was \$31,798.25. Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the financial report. Barbara Grogan seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell told the Council that we need to renew the 2021 parking lot agreement with Kebos. Kebos was renting 28 spaces @ \$5 per space, per month. After a brief discussion Raymond Breaux made a motion to renew the lease. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.


Mrs. Angell proceeded to give the Executive Director's report. Myrtle Habersham and Kay Sibetta was acknowledged by Mrs. Angell. Ms. Habersham mentioned we are the first region in the entire nation to become an age friendly region. Scott Stephenson from Albany, Georgia has been offered the job as Finance Director and will begin January 4, 2021 in that position. The 5304 and 5311 grant applications were submitted in December. Our offices will be closed for Christmas. Michelle Richardson, Transit Coordinator has a 20-year anniversary with the RC.

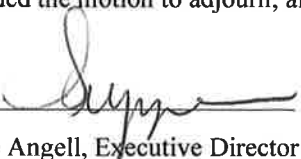
Mrs. Mays announced her appointments for the 2021 Nominating Committee. They are as follows; Norma Gilpatrick as Chairman, Al Bryan, Jim Sellers, Glenda Battle, and Charlie Williams. The Nominating Committee will meet prior to the January council meeting to choose a slate of officers for 2021 to recommend to the full Council. The Council will then be allowed to make other nominations and the vote will occur during the February council meeting since nominations are to be tabled for 30 days.

Chairman Mays and Suzanne Angell led a discussion as to what to do for the next several meetings in regard to the current status of COVID19. After much discussion, the Council will meet in January and February via Zoom and then the subject will be re-addressed. Donnie Baggett made the motion. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Suzanne Angell recognized those members of the Council that had 100% attendance for the 2020 calendar year. Those recognized were Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Charlie Williams, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Charlie Sol, Mr. Donnie Baggett, Ms. Wanda Warren, Mr. Al Hutchins, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Ben Hayward, and Mr. Al Bryan. Thomas County had 100% attendance all year. Mrs. Angell thanked everyone for their dedication.

Chairman Mays stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be January 28, 2021 and it will be held virtually. Charlie Sol made a motion to adjourn. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion to adjourn; all agreed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.


Elaine Mays, Chairman


Suzanne Angell, Executive Director