

# MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission  
Regional Council Meeting  
Camilla, Georgia  
May 27, 2021

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, May 27, 2021, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to COVID19 social distancing orders from the Governor, a virtual meeting was held via ZOOM and telephone. Chairman Paul Nagy chaired the meeting and was present. Elaine Mays was also present. The following council members were present via ZOOM:

Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Johnsie Handfield, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Tammy McCrary, Raymond Breaux, Casawn Lhullier-Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins Jr., Freddie Speight, Phillip Drew, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, Dice Roberts, Christopher Wheeler, John McPhaul, Norma Gilpatrick and Rodney Prince.

Council members calling to report conflicts were John Spann, Deidre Evans-Severson, Ferrell Ruis, Chad Griffin, and Brenda Peterson.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Kregg Close, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Kregg Freeman, Jayme Smith, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, and Jack Powell.

Guests present were:

***Danielle Arigoni, AARP Director of Livable Communities and Government Affairs***

***Deborah Tyler - Horton, AARP Livable Communities, State Director of AARP***

***Mayor Vince Williams, Georgia Municipal Association President, Mayor of Union City.***

***Myrtle Habersham, Georgia Ambassador for AARP Age Friendly Communities***

***Ebony Simpson, Department of Community Affairs Planning and Outreach Training Coordinator***

***Izzy Sadler, SOWEGA Council on Aging Executive Director***

***Laura Mathis, Middle GA Regional Commission Executive Director***

***Kay Sibetta, AARP Associate State Director AARP***

***Mary Beth Brownlee, ACCG County Consulting Services Associate***

***Algenia Skinner, GA DOT Transit Project Manager***

***Hillary Johnson, AARP GA Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Manager***

***Carolyn Hartfield, Healthy Lifestyle Coach***

***Carl Rowland, Worth County Administrator***

*Paul Fryer, Field Representative for Congressman Sanford Bishop*

*Scott Courson, Southern GA Regional Commission Director of Aging Services*

*Leigh Ann Trainer, GDOT Assistant Division Director*

*Emily Davenport, Georgia Municipal Association Member Services Consultant*

*Katie Perumbetti, Atlanta Regional Commission Lifelong Communities Coordinator*

*Jami Harper, SOWEGA Council on Aging Community Program Manager*

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Finance Director Scott Stephenson, and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Chairman Nagy called the meeting to order at approximately 6:06 p.m.

Chairman Nagy asked Heather White to take the roll call and give the attendance report.

Executive Assistant Heather White gave the attendance report stating that there were 34 members present representing 12 counties and a quorum was present. Dougherty, Early, Grady, Mitchell, Thomas and Worth Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Nagy asked for a motion that the April 29, 2021 meeting minutes to be approved. Elaine Mays made a motion to accept the minutes. Ben Hayward seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Paul Nagy thanked all of the guests for attending and introduced Ms. Danielle Arigoni, AARP Director of Livable Communities and Government Affairs, of the AARP national office. She said that she and her colleagues are proud to participate in this special celebration of the nation's first ever Region receiving an AARP Livable Communities designation. She said this includes the fourteen counties in Southwest Georgia in the global initiative to create age-friendly communities. Georgia also had the first AARP Age-Friendly community designation in the nation, Macon-Bibb County. Next, Deborah Tyler – Horton, AARP Livable Communities, Georgia Director spoke. She congratulated the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the fourteen counties on their accomplishment. Union City Mayor and Georgia Municipal Association President, Mayor Vince Williams offered his congratulations. He is hoping Georgia Municipal Association's 537 cities will be a part of this opportunity. He announced that the GMA Convention will be August 6 – 10 in Savannah. SWGRC Executive Director thanked AARP. She acknowledged Laura Mathis, Middle Georgia Regional Commission Executive Director. Mrs. Angell said that she first heard about this AARP program from a presentation Ms. Mathis had at a meeting. Mrs. Angell thanked the SWGRC Council for their support through the long process. She thanked all of the County Commissioners and County Administrators for their resolutions of support. Mrs. Angell thanked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick for having the idea for a regional designation. She thanked all who came to the meeting. The county certificates will be delivered soon to each county. Chairman Paul Nagy thanked all fourteen of the county commissions.

Chairman Nagy told the Council that the Executive Committee met before the Council meeting to review the FY22 Budget, Minimum Unassigned Fund Balance and Work Program. The Executive Committee voted to recommend these three items to the full Council but they will be tabled for 30 days, per the Bylaws and voted on at the June 2021 Council meeting. Executive Suzanne Angell mentioned that the Council received the proposed FY22 Budget in their packet and briefly reviewed it with the Council.

Chairman Nagy asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the Planning Report. Mrs. Reddick asked for the adoption of the resolution for the Regional Work Program that was approved by the Department of

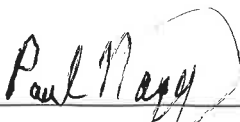
Community Affairs (DCA). Donnie Baggett made a motion to adopt the Regional Work Program as presented. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Reddick said that the Planning Report was included in the Council packets. Mrs. Reddick said the Brownfields Grant was not funded. She hopes the comments on the application will be available by the June meeting. The CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Mitigation Grant for the City of Albany was approved for \$3.2 million dollars for infrastructure. There are still more grants pending. The Planning Department is continuing to work on Pre-hazard Mitigation Plans. The plans for Miller and Baker counties have been approved. Other County plans are in progress. The Hazard Mitigation Plans are on our website. The Planning Department is continuing to work on the EDA Cares Grant. The Housing Task Force had its virtual conference. It went well and had 53 attendees. Broadband training was attended. Most communities are working on their broadband designation. There will be funding coming for broadband. Our communities are preparing with our planners working on service delivery strategy updates, broadband designations, and update of comprehensive plans.

Chairman Nagy asked Finance Director Scott Stephenson to present the Financial Reports for the period ending April 30, 2021. The General Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$44,589.92, bringing the ending fund balance to \$565,224.76. The Revolving Loan Fund had an excess of \$6,626.61, bringing the ending fund balance to \$585,574.61. The Regional Transportation Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$1,525,228.55, bringing the ending fund balance to \$1,844,203.34. The Regional Partner's Network has a deficit of \$85.00, bringing their fund balance to \$7,195.08. The Pension Trust Fund had a surplus of \$190,995.82, bringing the fund balance to \$1,051,397.79. Mr. Stephenson also reviewed the financial commentary with the Council to address any significant discrepancies between actual expenditures and the budget. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Elaine Mays made a motion to accept the financial report. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell continued with her Executive Director's report. She said we are continuing to make loans on the RLF CARES Act loans. \$305,000 of the \$500,000 (61%) of the CARES Fund Program has been distributed. The applications have slowed down so the program will be promoted by Beka Shiver again. These loans are available for businesses effected by COVID who were in business before COVID. The Legacy Revolving Loan Fund program we have had since the 80s has been submitted for defederalization. Staff member Abbey Casey has resigned from the Southwest Georgia Regional's Commission employ to pursue her career in the Marines. Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Reddick will be attending the GMA District meeting. Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Shiver will be attending a Dougherty Co. Rotary Club meeting.

Chairman Nagy asked the Council how they would like to proceed with the June 24th council meeting. After some conversation, he stated as it stands now it will be a ZOOM meeting unless the Governor lifts the State of Emergency for Georgia.

Chairman Paul Nagy adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.

  
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Paul Nagy, Chairman

  
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Suzanne Angell, Executive Director