

# MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission  
Regional Council Meeting  
Camilla, Georgia  
June 24, 2021

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 24, 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, Raymond Breaux, Ferrell Ruis and John Spann were also present. The following council members were present via ZOOM:

Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Deidre Evans-Severson, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Jr., Freddie Speight, LaFaye Copeland, Jim Sellers, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, Dice Roberts, Christopher Wheeler, John McPhaul, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Revonn Miller, Tammy McCrary, Joe Walden, Brenda Peterson, and Rodney Prince.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Johnsie Handfield, Kregg Close, John Wheaton, Kregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, and Jack Powell.

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 6:17 p.m. Mr. Nagy said a prayer and lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 35 members present representing 12 counties and a quorum was present. Calhoun, Early, Mitchell, Thomas and Worth Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Nagy asked for a motion that the May 27, 2021 meeting minutes to be approved. Ferrell Ruis made a motion to accept the minutes. Ben Hayward seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the FY22 Budget that has been tabled for 30 days. Barbara Grogan made the motion. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion to approve the FY22 Budget; all agreed. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the FY22 target fund balance that has been tabled for 30 days. John Spann made the motion. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion to accept the FY22 target fund balance; all agreed. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to approve the FY22 Work Program that has been tabled for 30 days. Al Hutchins Jr. made the motion. Norma Gilpatrick seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Nagy asked Transportation Committee Chairman Raymond Breaux to give the Transportation Committee report to the Council. He said that the Transportation Committee met before the regular council meeting to discuss the recommendation to the full council to renew the Transit Provider contracts for FY22. He said the committee recommends the renewal of the contracts based on the scores the

providers received from their evaluations. John Spann made the motion to renew the contracts for the current transit providers for FY22. Al Hutchins, Jr. seconded the motion; all agreed.

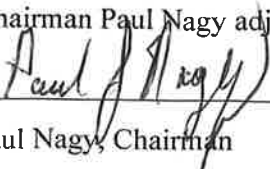
Chairman Nagy asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the Planning Report. Mrs. Reddick stated that everyone should have received the planning report in their council packets that were mailed out. She said that they have a USDA Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) application due in mid-July. They are working with the City of Colquitt on a redevelopment fund. The Brownfield Grant did not get funded. We scored high on our application, but it was a very competitive process. We scored 150.3 out of 160; Nationwide, 314 applications were submitted and only 106 were funded. Our region, which includes Florida and Georgia, had 29 applications funded out of the 89 submitted. She said the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications were submitted to DCA on June 4, 2021. Miller, Thomas, and Baker County's Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans are under review with FEMA. Seminole, Calhoun, Mitchell, Decatur, and Worth County Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans are in progress. The draft for Bainbridge's Solid Waste Plan is ready for review by the city. Eight loans have closed under the EDA CARES Revolving loan fund program. Sixty-one percent of the funds have been spent (\$305,000 of \$500,000). Thirty-nine percent of the funds are still available for lending. The FY21 Department of Community Affairs Contract will end June 30, so the Planning Department is completing the projects under that contract.

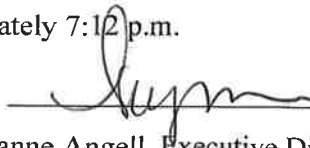
Chairman Nagy asked Finance Director Scott Stephenson to present the Financial Reports for the period ending May 31, 2021. The General Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$52,384.84, bringing the ending fund balance to \$573,019.68. The Revolving Loan Fund had an excess of \$7,829.95, bringing the ending fund balance to \$611,777.95. The Regional Transportation Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$1,767,430.70, bringing the ending fund balance to \$2,086,405.49. 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 \$195,608.17, bringing the fund balance to \$1,056,010.14. Mr. Stephenson also mentioned the financial commentary and explained that there were no significant discrepancies between actual expenditures and the budget to address. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Barbara Grogan made a motion to accept the financial report. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave her Executive Director's report. She said that everyone received the report of approved Microloans in their packets. She said that one legacy Revolving Loan Fund loan in the amount of \$100,000 has been approved and that loan is moving towards closing. Sixty-one percent of the RLF CARES funding has been disbursed. Mrs. Angell stated that the US Congress recently approved a bill to make Juneteenth an official federal holiday. She asked that the Council consider allowing the Regional Commission to also add Juneteenth as an official staff holiday in FY22 to our current personnel policies. Donnie Baggett made the motion to make Juneteenth an official staff holiday. Glenda Battle seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Nagy stated that the state of emergency will be lifted on July 1<sup>st</sup> per the Governor. Because of this we will begin meeting in person. In the spirit of social distancing the meeting will be held at the Camilla Depot/Chamber of Commerce. Box suppers will be served.

Chairman Paul Nagy adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:12 p.m.

  
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Paul Nagy, Chairman

  
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Suzanne Angell, Executive Director