

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

January 28, 2021

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, January 28, 2021, 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, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Johnsie Handfield, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Casawn Lhuillier-Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Phillip Drew, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, E. Dice Roberts, Norma Gilpatrick, and Rodney Prince. Ferrell Ruis, and Paul Nagy attended in person.

There were no excused absences.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Eddie Hopkins, Deidre Evans-Severson, Kregg Close, Billy Poppell, Freddy Grimsley, Jim Sellers, John Wheaton, Kregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, Jack Powell, Christopher Wheeler, and John McPhaul.

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

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

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 33 members present representing 12 counties and there was a quorum. Colquitt, Early, Mitchell and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Ms. Mays asked for a motion that the December 2020 meeting minutes to be approved. Al Hutchins motioned the minutes be accepted and Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Mays asked the Chairman of the 2021 Nominating Committee, Norma Gilpatrick, to address the Council about the Nominating meeting that occurred earlier in the evening. Mrs. Gilpatrick presented the Council with the recommendations for the 2021 Officer and Executive Committee positions. They were as follows; Paul Nagy, Chairman; Anthony Jones, Vice Chairman; Donnie Baggett, Treasurer; and members of the Executive Committee; Brenda Peterson, Ben Hayward, Glenda Battle, Jack Powell, John Spann, and Danny Palmer. Chairman Mays asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. With no other nominations mentioned she stated that the nominations would be tabled until the February meeting and then there would be a vote. Noting that Ms. Mays was not included as an executive committee member on the slate of nominations, Glenda Battle asked why the immediate ex-chairperson would roll off the committee instead a prior ex-chairperson. Ms. Angell stated that the By Laws had been amended last year to roll off the ex-chairperson in order to bring new Executive Committee members onto the Committee. This change was made because almost all the Executive Committee members had already served as an officer. After lengthy discussion it was decided to have a Bylaws Committee meeting before the February Council meeting to address this situation, as it was agreed that the immediate ex-chairman would be an asset to the incoming Chair and to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to present the Planning Report. She stated that the Planning Department has been working on several grants. Those include the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief for Albany and Dougherty County. They have been working on the Community Home Investment Program grant for only one county this year, Seminole County. The deadline for that is January 29, 2021. The

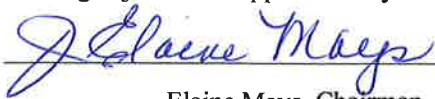
planners are also working on an Economic Development EDA grant for Dougherty County. Baker and Miller County have Hazard Mitigation Plans in process. The Georgia Department of Transportation quarterly reports are being completed for submission. The EDA Planning Grant (CARES Act) Grant Administration & Staffing Plan has been completed and submitted to EDA. The EDA Revolving Fund (CARES Act) Grant Administration and Staffing plan has also been completed and approved. Eight CARES Act RLF applications have been reviewed, five have been approved and three are pending board review. Thirty seven percent of the RLF CARES Act funds have been approved for disbursement. Our current planning volunteer is Sansui Tolulope Mary who works Mondays and Tuesday. We have an intern, Grace Malveaux. She is earning a Master of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida. She comes in on Fridays. The City of Albany Opportunity Zone and Urban Redevelopment plan are new contracts that are being worked on. We are also working on the 5-year comprehensive plans for many counties and cities. This list can be found in the planning report. The City of Albany and Grady County are the only ones due this year. The others are due in 2022. Executive Director Suzanne Angell recognized the hard work of the Planning Department. She said they have acquired many new contracts and have so many things going on and have been working very hard to assist our communities and at the same time, produce revenue for the RC.

Mrs. Angell introduced the new Finance Director, Scott Stephenson. Mrs. Angell presented the financial reports for the period ending December 31, 2020 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net excess of revenues over expenditures of \$28,370.62 bringing the ending fund balance to \$548,880.46. The Revolving Loan Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$1,160.89 bringing the ending fund balance to \$300,108.89. The Regional Transportation Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$1,043,730.58 bringing the ending fund balance to \$1,362,705.37. The Regional Partner's Network has a deficit of \$55.00 bringing their fund balance to \$7,225.08. The Pension Trust Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$127,533.11 bringing the fund balance to \$987,935.08. Gain on investments for the Pension Fund this year was \$125,410.24. Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the November financial report included in the meeting packets. Ferrell Ruis made a motion to accept the November financial report. Barbara Grogan seconded the motion; all agreed. Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the December financial report as presented. Paul Nagy made the motion to accept the December financial report. Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

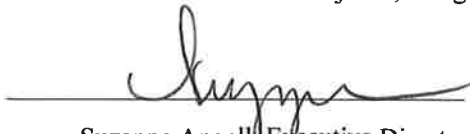
Executive Director Suzanne Angell said we need a motion to submit employee disclosures to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. One of those was for Shelby Rhymes who reported in her disclosure her bookkeeping services for the City of Meigs in the amount of \$415.26. Al Bryan made a motion to submit the employee disclosure for Ms. Rhymes as presented to the Council. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Angell proceeded to give the Executive Director's report. The AARP Age Friendly and Livable Communities Program presentations continue. Barbara and Suzanne most recently presented the program information to Mitchell County and asked them to consider adopting a resolution of support. Mitchell County will consider adopting the support resolution at their next Commission meeting. We currently have presentations scheduled for Grady, Lee, and Seminole Counties and will continue scheduling until presentations at all counties have been completed. Kebos has paid through June 2021 on the parking lot lease. The lease is for one year. We have received 14 microloan applications. The RLF Loan Board has approved 5 Microloans out of 8 applications that have been presented to the RLF Board.

Chairman Mays stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be February 25, 2021 and it will be held virtually. Paul Nagy made a motion to adjourn. Al Hutchins seconded the motion to adjourn; all agreed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director