

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting
Camilla, Georgia
February 25, 2021

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, February 25, 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 Elaine Mays chaired the meeting and was present. The following council members were present via ZOOM: John Spann, Charlie Williams, Deidra Evans-Severson, Johnsie Handfield, Barbara Grogan, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, E. Dice Roberts, and Christopher Wheeler. Paul Nagy attended the meeting in person.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Ferrell Ruis, Revonn Miller, Tammy McCrary, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Eddie Hopkins, Benny Flowers, Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Billy Poppell, Casawn Lhullier-Yheyeis, Phillip Drew, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Kregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, Jack Powell, John McPhaul, and Rodney Prince.

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

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

Chairman Mays asked the Council for a motion to amend the agenda to include a vote on the 5310 Resolution under the Executive Director's report. Al Hutchins made the motion to amend the agenda. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 27 members present representing 11 counties and a quorum was present. Early, Seminole, Mitchell and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Ms. Mays asked for a motion that the January 2021 meeting minutes to be approved. Al Hutchins made a motion to accept the minutes. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays said that the Bylaws Committee met. She asked Jim Sellers to give the Bylaws Committee Report. He said the Bylaws Committee had reviewed sections 4.3 and 5.2 and Suzanne Angell's proposed recommendations to update the verbiage so that the immediate past Chairperson would rotate back on to the Executive Committee. This change was requested by the Council at the last Council meeting. The revised Bylaws sections were proposed as follows: Section 4.3 of Article IV: *"Upon completion of the Chairperson's served term(s) he or she shall rotate back on to the Executive Committee, serving as Chairman Emeritus and having full voting privileges, for a period of time not to exceed two years. At the same time a new Chairman Emeritus rotates on to the Executive Committee, a former Chairman Emeritus will rotate off the Executive Committee, leaving the Executive Committee member slot open for nomination."* Section 5.2 of Article IV: *"The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Officers of the Council, the Chairman Emeritus, plus five (5) other Council members. The composition of the Executive Committee shall be such that there shall be at least one (1) elected municipal government official, at least (1) elected county government official and at least one (1) non-public member. The five (5) "at large" members of the Executive committee shall be elected at the February Council meeting upon nominations from the nominating committee in the same manner as*

provided in Article IV, Section 1, above.” Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws. Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays stated that the Nominating Committee met prior to the Council meeting and Glenda Battle chaired the Nominating Committee meeting in Norma Gilpatrick’s absence. Ms. Battle gave the Nominating Committee report stating that the Nominating Committee is proposing an amendment to the 2021 nominated Executive Committee Members as needed after the Bylaws were changed, and are as follows; Ben Hayward and Jack Powell have agreed to step down as Executive Committee Members because they are the longest serving members on that committee. Next, Elaine Mays would stay on the Executive Committee as Chairman Emeritus. Lastly, Al Hutchins is nominated to step into Jack Powell’s position. Jon Howard made a motion to accept the new slate of Executive Committee members, Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Mays asked for a motion to accept the 2021 SWGRC slate of officers and Executive Committee members, as amended. Glenda Battle made the motion and Al Hutchins seconded it, all agreed.

Chairman Mays then passed the gavel to the 2021 Chairman Paul Nagy and the meeting continued.

Chairman Nagy asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the Planning Report. She said that the planners have been working on Community Development Block Grants Disaster Relief applications for Albany and Dougherty County. The Cities of Arlington and Cairo had zoning reviews. A Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) application was recently submitted for Seminole County. A Mitigation Grant for infrastructure for the City of Albany is due February 20, 2021. The Dougherty County CDBG Mitigation Grant will also be due on February 20, 2021 and the Dougherty County DR Planning Grant was due January 29, 2021. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update has been posted on the planning website. EDA is reconsidering the Dougherty County and Albany Radium Springs Trail Project for reduced funding in the amount of \$2M and final approval is pending additional information. We currently have an intern from the University of Florida. Grace Malveaux, working with us for one day per week. She is working on her Masters of Urban and Regional Planning Degree. Two new contracts for the City of Albany are currently in process: an application for an Opportunity Zone Designation in the amount of \$8,250 and the update of their Urban Redevelopment Plan for \$6,000.

Chairman Nagy asked Finance Director Scott Stephenson to present the Financial Reports for the period ending January 31, 2021. The General Fund had an excess of \$13,369.19 bringing the ending fund balance to \$534,004.03. The Revolving Loan Fund had an excess of \$1,708.06 bringing the ending fund balance to \$300,656.06. The Regional Transportation Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$1,207,803.21 bringing the ending fund balance to \$1,526,778.00. 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 \$126,195.00 bringing the balance to \$986,991.97. Gain on investments in the Pension Fund this year was \$125,413.02. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the financial report. Glenda Battle seconded the motion; all agreed.

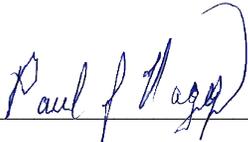
Executive Director Suzanne Angell proceeded to give the Executive Director’s report. To date we have resolutions of support for the AARP Age Friendly and Livable Communities Program from Dougherty, Calhoun, Mitchell, and Grady Counties. Presentations are scheduled with Lee and Seminole Counties. AARP is excited to announce the age friendly designation for our region, so we are trying to get these resolutions of support as quickly as possible. The Revolving Loan Fund Board has approved seven out of twelve applications that have been presented. Six have been approved for \$40,000 and one for \$25,000 for a total of \$265,000. Three of the loans are scheduled to close February 24th. Two more are awaiting a scheduled closing date from the attorney. We have also received a regular (Legacy) RLF loan application that was presented to the RLF Board in February and more information was requested from the applicant before a decision can be made on that loan. The FY2022 Department of Human Services Regional Transportation application was submitted by the due date of February 19th. We did receive good marks on our annual evaluations from DHS consumers and agencies and thus, the Regional Transportation Coordinated Committee (RTCC) voted to continue using SWGRC to transport their clients. Mrs. Angell said she is continuing to work with and train the new Finance Director who is doing a great job so far. Mrs. Angell asked the

Council to approve the beginning process for defederalization of EDA RLF Legacy Funds. Al Hutchins made the motion to begin the process. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed. Lastly, Mrs. Angell asked the Council to approve the 5310 resolution so that she can submit to DHS as required by the 5310 application process. Donnie Baggett made the motion and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

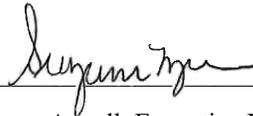
Under "Other Business" on the agenda, Ms. Angell announced that the New Council Member training will be held in March. Details will follow.

The place of the next meeting will be at 6pm on March 25, 2021 via ZOOM.

Elaine Mays made a motion to adjourn. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed. Paul Nagy adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.



Paul Nagy, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director