

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

July 25, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, July 25, 2019, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Virginia Hart, Preston Jimmerson, Gregg Close, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Freddie Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, June Knight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Terry Scott, and Rodney Prince.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Deidre Evans-Severson, Steve Brock, Revonn Miller, Jeffery Haynes, John Wheaton, Nicole Nixon, Jayme Smith, Ed Wade, Al Bryan, Joe Gaines, Christopher Wheeler, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Ernest Johnson, and Karen Rackley.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Executive Assistant Heather White, Finance Director Barbara Wilbon, and Planner Kimberly Brooks.

Guests present were Bainbridge Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Amanda Glover, Department of Community Affairs Region 10 Representative Gina Webb, Steve O'Neil, Kathy Speight, Harriett Walden, Don Gray, Toney Thompson, Johnny Walker, and John Peterson.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 33 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Baker County, Grady County, Mitchell County, Dougherty County and Seminole County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the June 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Billy Poppell motioned the minutes be accepted and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays introduced the guest speaker, Amanda Glover, who spoke about Bainbridge's Rural Zone designation by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the evolution of the downtown area of Bainbridge. She showed how tax credits have encouraged new business and development in downtown Bainbridge.

Chairman Mays asked Bylaws Committee Chairman Jim Sellers to address the Council about the Bylaws Committee meeting held just before the council meeting. He said that the Bylaws Committee met earlier in the month and addressed portions of the bylaws that needed updating. Another meeting was held thirty minutes before the council meeting to review the changes that had been made to the bylaws. The committee voted to present the revised bylaws to the Council. Each council member was handed a copy of the proposed bylaws with changes. This new version of the bylaws will be tabled and voted on at the next council meeting at the end of August. Executive Director Suzanne Angell let the Council know what changes were made to the bylaws and encouraged everyone to review them and contact her with any questions.

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the planning department report. The Housing Task Force Planning meeting is scheduled for August of 2019. CDBGs were submitted and the announcements for the awards will be in September. Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans were approved by the Georgia Emergency Management Administration for Terrell County. Grady County is going through their final adoption of their plan and Miller and Baker counties are in progress. The City of Morgan's Hazard Mitigation Grant application is due at the end of July. Solid Waste Plans are in progress for Bainbridge and Calhoun County. The updated Regional Bike & Pedestrian

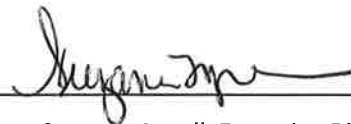
Corridors were completed as well as the preliminary Multi-Use Trail Network Plan. Two safety focused Complete Streets trainings are scheduled. A semi-annual report for Economic Development has been completed. There will be a Community and Economic Development Update meeting in October. The next session of the Georgia Academy will begin in August.

Mrs. Angell introduced the new Finance Director, Barbara Wilbon. She said that the intention to fill the Economic Developer/Transportation Planner position is to do so internally. The search for a Senior Planner continues. She asked the council to fill out their Annual Performance Review and give them to Heather White. Mrs. Angell stated that her goal until she gets Barbara Wilbon trained is to get out to at least two local communities each month. She spoke of visiting the City of Blakely at their City Council Meeting and the City of Damascus at a community meeting in June. The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) is having a meeting August 1<sup>st</sup> and Executive Director Suzanne Angell and Chairman Elaine Mays will be attending that meeting. Mrs. Angell also stated that she will be attending the first class for the Georgia Academy of Economic Development on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Leesburg. The Department of Community Affairs will be having their conference October 15-17 at Great Wolf Lodge in LaGrange. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission will have an Economic Developer's Meeting at the Regional Commission in Camilla on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jenny Robbins will be the speaker. Mrs. Angell stated that we still have not received a final report from the Department of Audits and Accounts on their monitoring for the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Human Services.

The Executive Director presented the Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2019 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net surplus of \$51,229.87 bringing the ending fund balance to \$537,232.76. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$4,638.03 bringing the ending fund balance to \$297,758.07. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$48,481.64 bringing the ending fund balance to \$234,225.74. The Regional Partners Network had small deficit of \$128.95 bringing their fund balance to \$7355.64. The Defined Benefit Plan had a gain on investments of \$38,509.15. Billy Poppell made a motion to accept the June 2019 financial report and Danny Palmer seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays stated no other business, the next meeting is July the 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

  
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Elaine Mays, Chairman

  
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Suzanne Angell, Executive Director