

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

September 26, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, September 26, 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, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Raymond Breaux, Freddy Grimsley, Charlie Sol, Freddie Speight, Al Hutchins, June Knight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Carlos Williams, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Al Bryan, Elaine Mays, Christopher Wheeler, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Deidre Evans-Severson, Steve Brock, Chad Griffin, Danny Palmer, Ed Wade, Joe Gaines, and Rodney Prince.

Council members absent were Preston Jimmerson, Jon Howard, Nicole Nixon, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, Terry Scott, and Karen Rackley.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Executive Assistant Heather White, Finance Director Barbara Wilbon, GIS Manager Heidi Penny, and Planner Kay Olubowale.

Guests present were Julian Knight, Lucius Hayes, Queenie Grimes, Melody Pierce, John Peterson, and Michael Bryant.

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 35 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Baker County, Early County, Grady County, and Seminole County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

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

Chairman Mays asked Suzanne Angell to give the Executive Committee report. Mrs. Angell distributed the Draft Audit Report prepared by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) to the Council. She asked the council members not to distribute the report outside of the meeting per the request of the Department of Audits and Accounts. Mrs. Angell briefly reviewed the report. She also passed out the responses that were prepared and submitted. She asked for questions from the Council and addressed the questions.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Norma Gilpatrick, gave her report. She stated that the Nominating Committee met on Monday to discuss nominations for the two positions on the Executive Committee that were created with the revised bylaws. She said after much discussion and many considerations that the Executive Committee voted to recommend Paul Nagy and Anthony Jones to the Council to fill these positions. She asked for any other nominations from the Council. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Gilpatrick said that the committee's nominations would be tabled for 30 days.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for Barbara Reddick to give her Planning Department report to the Council. Barbara stated that the Planning Department has been very busy as normal. She said that they are busy training new staff, writing grants, visiting communities, attending plan implementation assistance meetings, and more. The new Economic Developer/ Transportation Planner has been hired. She is working part time right now but will soon start full time. Pre-Hazard and Hazard Mitigation Grants are still being worked on. Many communities still have needs post- Hurricane Michael. The City of Bronwood was approved for a Community Development Block Grant. The Community HOME Improvement Program Grant applications are being completed. They are due at the end of

out of a booklet prepared by the Georgia Department of Transportation that highlights existing conditions and a future trends analysis of the Georgia Statewide Transit Plan. The page shows that Southwest Georgia provides significantly more rural trips than the other regions in the state (351,572 trips).

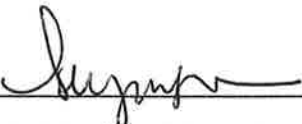
Dougherty County Council member Anthony Jones asked to address the council. He expressed his satisfaction and appreciation to Executive Director Suzanne Angell and Deputy Director Barbara Reddick for keeping the Regional Commission on track since the untimely passing of the late Executive Director Robert McDaniel.

Chairman Mays asked Workforce Director Melody Pierce if she would like to address the Council. Ms. Pierce updated the council on what Workforce has been doing.

Chairman Mays stated no other business, the next meeting is October 31st. Donnie Baggett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Billy Poppell seconded the motion to adjourn; all agreed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director