

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

December 12, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, December 12, 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, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Terry Scott, Elaine Mays, Joe Gaines, Christopher Wheeler, and Rodney Prince.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Billy Poppell, Tracie Beard, Al Bryan, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Preston Jimmerson, Freddy Grimsley, June Knight, John Wheaton, Nicole Nixon, Jayme Smith, and Ernest Johnson.

Staff members present were Suzanne Angell, Barbara Reddick, Kimberly Brooks, Barbara Wilbon, Heather White, Beka Shiver, and Abby Casey.

Guests present were Ernie Nixon, Kathy Wade, Herven Severson, John Peterson, Scott Hart, Denise Rackley, LaTonya Sol, Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyeis and Harriet Landon.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 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, Calhoun County, Early County, and Mitchell County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the October 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Jack Powell motioned the minutes be accepted and Terry Scott seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman of the Audit Committee, Danny Palmer, gave his report. Director Suzanne Angell asked auditor Denise Rackley of Valenti, Rackley & Associates to present the council with the draft audit report. Each council member received a copy of the draft report. Mrs. Rackley said it was a clean audit and there were no findings. She commended the staff on a job well done. Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the draft audit report as presented. Danny Palmer made the motion to accept the Draft Audit Report. Bennie Flowers seconded the motion; all agreed. The motion was passed.

Chairman Elaine Mays stated that the Executive Committee had met earlier in the evening. She asked Director Suzanne Angell to discuss the final Performance Audit Report from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (GDOAA). Ms. Angell reviewed the performance and compliance score cards and reviewed the findings included in the report.

To follow up from the prior Council meeting on the proposal from SERDI (Southeast Regional Director's Institute) to perform a commission assessment, Mrs. Angell presented feedback and recommendations from individuals who had previously used SERDI to perform a commission assessment. The SERDI proposal had been presented at the October meeting and had been tabled until the December meeting. She stated that the Executive Committee had, prior to the full Council meeting, reviewed this information and recommended that the Council contract with SERDI to do an assessment for SWGRC. After discussion with the council, Mitchell Blanks made a motion to contract with SERDI to conduct an independent evaluation and assessment of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Terry Scott seconded the motion; all agreed.

Director Suzanne Angell presented the Council with the information she had gathered about Kebo's Barbeque utilizing a large portion of the SWGRC parking lot. She discussed a proposal to lease spaces to Kebo's and not allow them to go beyond a specific point so that the Regional Commission has adequate parking for events. After much discussion she asked for a motion to seek out professional advice to work out a lease for a specified amount of parking spaces with Kebo's. Dwight Hickman made the motion to allow Ms. Angell to pursue charging Kebo's a fee for using a limited amount of spaces. Danny Palmer seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to present her Planning Report. Mrs. Reddick introduced her staff that was present at the meeting including Beka Shiver, the new Economic Development and Transportation Planner. She mentioned that her planning staff has been very busy as usual. Mrs. Reddick stated that she included her planning report in everyone's packets and there are copies at the front of the room should anyone need one. She asked if there are any questions about anything in her planning report. With no questions, she concluded her report.

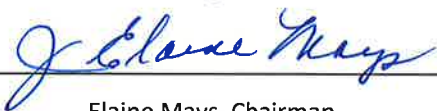
Chairman Mays asked Finance Director Barbara Wilbon to give the Finance Report. Ms. Wilbon presented the Financial Reports for the period ending October 31, 2019 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net surplus of \$18,442.15, bringing the ending fund balance to \$574,472.03. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$1,124.46, bringing the ending fund balance to \$298,890.21. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$46,176.44 bringing the ending fund balance to \$284,258.37. The Pension Trust fund had a deficit of \$31,825.17 with an ending balance of \$885,050.79. Ms. Wilbon mentioned that everyone should have received a commentary that accompanies the financial report in their packets. She said if anyone needs another that they are on the table up front. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept the October 2019 financial report and Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed.

The Executive Director then gave her report. Mrs. Angell said her Executive Director's report was included in the meeting packets. She passed out a FY19 Annual Report to the council members who had not picked one up on their way into the meeting. She said if anyone has any questions about it, they can contact her. Mrs. Angell asked Paul Nagy to address the council about whether the non-elected officials can attend the ACCG Ethics class. He said that non-elected officials could attend the ACCG Ethics class, but only if the class did not fill up. He said that the non-elected council members would have to be registered through the Executive Director Suzanne Angell. Mrs. Angell agreed to research someone coming to present an ethics class at the Regional Commission. Mrs. Angell mentioned DCA had cut the contract amount by about \$8,800 and it is uncertain whether they would further cut that contract due to state budget cuts, as approved by the Governor. Mrs. Angell stated that 5304 and 5311 transportation contracts had been submitted. Ms. Angell also discussed the possibility of a regional T-SPLOST. Currently, 10 of our 14 counties have single county T-SPLOST, so it may be difficult to get a regional T-SPLOST passed at this time. Ms. Angell reviewed meetings and conferences that she had recently attended and noted that the House Rural Development Council would be meeting in Americus on Dec 17-18. "Regional Commission Structure" is on their agenda and she, along with other RC Executive Directors, plans to attend. Mrs. Angell made a proposal to have a Legislator's Reception on April 30, 2020. Donnie Baggett made the motion to schedule a Legislative Reception on this date. Mitchell Blanks seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Angell presented certificates of 100% attendance to those council members who had not missed a meeting for the calendar year. Those receiving certificates were; John Spann, Al Hutchins, Dwight Hickman, Nathaniel Keaton, Jack Powell, and Elaine Mays.

Chairman Mays announced the 2020 Nominating Committee that she had selected. They are Chair, Donnie Baggett, Glenda Battle, Paul Nagy, Norma Gilpatrick, and Charlie Williams.

Chairman Mays said with no other business the next meeting is January 30, 2020. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director