

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

January 30, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, January 30, 2020, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Jon Howard, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Phillip Drew, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Chris Moore, Virginia Hart, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Casawn Lhullier-Yheyeis, Freddie Speight, and Dwight Hickman.

Council members absent were Deidre Evans-Severson, Kregg Close, Nicole Nixon, Mitchell Blanks, Ernest Johnson, Christopher Wheeler, and Rodney Prince.

Staff members present were Suzanne Angell, Barbara Reddick, Heidi Penny, Brenda Wade, Barbara Wilbon, Heather White, Beka Shiver, and Kay Olubouwale.

Guests present were John Peterson, Lucious Hayes, and Queenie Grimes.

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 32 members present representing 13 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Grady County, Thomas County and Mitchell County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Mrs. Angell then introduced new members of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the December 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Raymond Breaux motioned the minutes be accepted and Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed except Al Bryan who abstained.

Chairman of the Executive Committee, Elaine Mays, gave the Executive Committee report. She asked Executive Director Suzanne Angell to discuss the first action item, a Mutual Support Resolution. The resolution states that regional commissions will collaborate and support each other. After a brief conversation about this Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the Mutual Support Resolution as presented. Jack Powell made the motion to accept the Mutual Support Resolution. Freddie Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed. The motion was passed. The next action item was the approval of the Parking Lot Lease Agreement with Kebo's Barbeque. After much discussion Charlie Sol made a motion to allow Mrs. Angell to continue to pursue having this agreement signed by the owner of Kebo's Barbeque. Steve Brock seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Elaine Mays stated that the Bylaws Committee had met earlier in the evening. She asked the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, Jim Sellers to discuss the meeting with the Council. Mr. Sellers said there was discussion in the meeting about revision in the wording of the SWGRC Council Appointments section of the bylaws. Mrs. Angell continued the discussion explaining the reasons for the proposed changes. Chairman Mays stated that these proposed changes would be tabled until the next meeting in February when they will be voted on.

Mrs. Mays asked the Chairman of the 2020 Nominating Committee Donnie Baggett to address the Council about the meeting that occurred earlier in the evening. Mr. Baggett stood up and presented the Council with the recommendations for the 2020 Executive Committee and Officer positions. They were as follows; Elaine Mays, Chairman; John Spann, Vice Chairman; Paul Nagy, Treasurer; and members of the Executive Committee; Brenda Peterson, Ben Hayward, Glenda Battle, Jack Powell, Anthony Jones, and Danny Palmer. He asked if there are any

other nominations from the floor. With no other nominations mentioned he stated that the nominations would be tabled until the February meeting and then there would be a vote.

Chairman Mays invited Barbara Reddick to give her Planning Report. She stated that everyone should have received her report in their packets. She proceeded to review the projects the Planning Department has been working on.

GIS Manager Heidi Penny gave her GIS report to the council. She said she has been working with County Tax digests. She mentioned how important Parcel map updates are. She said it is survey time for getting annexation updates completed.

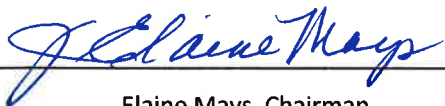
Grant Administration Manager Brenda Wade presented the council with her report and reviewed the current projects that her department has been working on.

Barbara Wilbon, Finance Director stated everyone should have received the November 2019 and the December 2019 Financial Statements in their packets as well as her Financial Commentary. She went over the most recent December 2019 Financial Report. The beginning fund balance of the General fund was \$556,029.88. There was a deficit of \$4,881.76 bringing the ending fund balance of the General Fund to \$551,148.12. The Revolving Loan Fund had a beginning balance of \$297,765.75. It had a deficit of \$2,057.22, bringing the ending balance to \$295,708.53. The Regional Transportation Fund had a beginning fund balance of \$238,081.93. There was a net surplus of \$43,330.05, bringing the ending fund balance to \$284,411.98. The Regional Partners Network (RPN) had a beginning fund balance of \$7,355.64. There was a deficit in the RPN Fund of \$75.56 bringing the ending fund balance to \$7,280.08. The Pension Trust Fund had a beginning balance of \$916,875.96. There was a net surplus in the Pension Trust Fund of \$273.55, bringing the ending balance to \$917,149.51. Donnie Baggett made a motion to approve the November 2019 Financial Statement. Carlos Williams seconded the motion; all agreed. Glenda Battle made a motion to approve the December 2019 Financial Statement. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented the Council with her report. Mrs. Angell reminded the Council that the Census is very important, and the Regional Commission and Council, as a Complete Count Committee, are charged with spreading the word and encouraging Census participation in our communities. She mentioned there are census posters in the back that the SWGRC printed and they can be distributed in the communities. She also mentioned that as of January 1, the IRS issued a new mileage reimbursement. That new rate will be reflected on the forms the non-public members submit each meeting for their mileage reimbursements. She stated that as of today, the location at 38 West Broad Street has been rented. Mrs. Angell briefed the Council on the recommendation from the House of Representatives to reduce the size of the council. The recommendation at this point is for the reduction of the number of non-public members. She suggested the Council to speak to their local legislatures if this is a concern for them. Mrs. Angell talked about the Governor's budget recommendation to cut the budget of the Regional Commissions. There has been an \$8,800 budget cut so far. It is not anticipated that any additional cuts will be substantial. Mrs. Angell addressed the memo she sent out about the legal action by Destiny Transportation. She stated that the Regional Commission acted within the confines of the contract entered into with Destiny. She talked about the City/County Manager's meeting that was hosted by the Regional Commission. She said she would like to continue the theme of various communities speaking about their regional success stories. Bainbridge was featured in the last City/County Manager's Meeting. Mrs. Angell spoke of some of the events and meetings she had attended in the past month. She let the Council know there is a full list in her report.

Mr. Jack Powell was presented his 100% Attendance award for the year of 2019 from Executive Director Suzanne Angell.

Chairman Mays said with no other business the next meeting is February 27, 2020. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director