

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

February 27, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, February 27, 2020, 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, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Steve Brock, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Casawn Lhullier-Yheyis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, and John McPhaul.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Deidre Evans-Severson, Paul Nagy, Barbara Grogan, John Wheaton, Danny Palmer, Tracie Beard, Gregg Satterfield, E. Dice Roberts, Christopher Wheeler, Norma Gilpatrick, and Rodney Prince.

Council members absent were Kregg Close, Phillip Drew, Chad Griffin, Kregg Freeman, and Ernest Johnson.

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

Guests present were Myrtle Habersham (AARP Georgia Ambassador), John Peterson, Lucious Hayes, Doug Powell, and William Morton.

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 34 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Baker County, Thomas County, Early County and Dougherty County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Mrs. Angell then recognized new members of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the January 2020 meeting minutes to be approved. Dwight Hickman motioned the minutes be accepted and Al Bryan seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Mays invited AARP Georgia Ambassador Myrtle Habersham to speak to the Council. Ms. Habersham spoke of the Global Network that is encouraging the development of age friendly and livable communities. She said that you can enroll your community, town, or county in the AARP Age Friendly Global Network. AARP in turn will assist in setting up age friendly and livable communities. The result would be a designation of being an age friendly community and encouraging retirees to live in the city or county. Also, collectively these communities would contribute to Georgia being designated as an age friendly state. Ms. Habersham mentioned that the retired community tends to have more disposable income and contributes more volunteer hours to a community. According to the AARP Policy book, 'A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and has supportive community features and services. Once in place, these resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster resident's engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life.

Bylaws Committee Chairman Jim Sellers asked Suzanne Angell to review the bylaw changes that have been tabled for 30 days. After the review, Executive Director Suzanne Angell asked for a motion to accept these changes as presented. Dwight Hickman motioned to accept the changes. Glenda Battle seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Donnie Baggett to give the nominating committee report. He stated that the nominations for the Executive Committee and the 2020 Officers had been tabled for 30 days and asked the Council for a motion to accept the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the Executive Committee and the Officers for 2020 as presented by the 2020 Nominating Committee. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion. All agreed. The 2020 Executive Committee and Officers are as follows; Elaine Mays, Chairman, John Spann, Vice-Chairman, Paul

Nagy, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Members: Glenda Battle, Danny Palmer, Brenda Peterson, Ben Hayward, Jack Powell and Anthony Jones.

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.

Barbara Wilbon, Finance Director stated everyone should have received the January 2020 Financial Statements in their packets. She passed out her Financial Commentary. Ms. Wilbon went over the January 2020 Financial Report with the Council. The beginning fund balance of the General fund was \$556,029.88. There was a deficit of \$39,251.24 bringing the ending fund balance of the General Fund to \$516, 778. 64. The Revolving Loan Fund had a beginning balance of \$297,765.75. It had a deficit of \$1,640.54, bringing the ending balance to \$296,125.21. The Regional Transportation Fund had a beginning fund balance of \$238,081.93. There was a net surplus of \$51,699.85, bringing the ending fund balance to \$289,781.78. 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 \$3,164.17, bringing the ending balance to \$913,711.79. Glenda Battle made a motion to approve the January 2020 Financial Statement. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

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Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented the Council with her report. Mrs. Angell announced to the Council that Mr. Carroll Underwood, the first Executive Director of the Southwest APDC had sadly passed away on Feb. 20 and that he was 94 years old. Mrs. Angell updated the council on the parking lot agreement that was presented to Kebo's. The draft agreement was emailed to the owner at the beginning of February who stated she was going to review with her attorney. We are still waiting to hear back from her. Mrs. Angell stated that she again emailed the owner at the end of last week and told her that there would be a letter sent by the SWGRC attorney if a response was not received by next week. Mrs. Angell also told the Council that the retail space at 38 W. Broad Street has been rented and that the space had to be re-painted and re-carpeted. The last tenants did not receive their deposit back due to the condition of the carpet. She stated that as of right now she was postponing the SERDI Commission Assessment due to monetary constraints in this budget year. An update was given regarding the Destiny's potential litigation. She stated she had received a "Litigation Hold Letter" that basically states that they have reason to believe litigation may result from Destiny's claims against SWGRC and GDOT and that we are obligated to preserve all evidence that may be relevant to the claim. Invitations for the Legislative Reception to be held April 30th have been sent out. Mrs. Angell asked the council for a motion to not convene a regular Council meeting on the evening of the Legislative Reception. She stated if there was any important business to take care of in April, she would call an Executive Committee meeting prior to the Legislative Reception. Steve Brock motioned that the Legislative Reception should be just a reception to honor legislators and not to hold a regular Council meeting that evening. Charlie Sol seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Angell said that there is a Revolving Loan Fund closing that will be held on February 26th for a pharmacy in Baconton. She said she also has sent a loan application packet to a small business owner in Blakely. Mrs. Angell also stated that DHS transportation rates had been successfully negotiated and that there would be significant changes in our DOT reimbursement methodology in FY21. She also stated that she had been requested to participate in a GDOT video as an educational tool to highlight existing transit systems in the state as part of the Statewide Transit Plan. GDOT is also looking into how they can assist in better marketing the rural transit systems in the state. Mrs. Angell briefly went over the meetings she has attended since the last council meeting and upcoming meetings she will be attending.

Chairman Mays said with no other business the next meeting is March 26, 2020. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m.


Elaine Mays, Chairman


Suzanne Angell, Executive Director