

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

June 25, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 25, 2020, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to COVID19 social distancing orders from the Governor, we held a virtual meeting by ZOOM and by phone. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting and was present. John Spann was present. The following council members were present via ZOOM or conference call: Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Raymond Breaux, Casawn Lhuillier-Yheweis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Phillip Drew, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, Norma Gilpatrick, and Rodney Prince.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Danny Palmer, Paul Nagy, Billy Poppell, and John McPhaul.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Eddie Hopkins, Deidre Evans-Severson, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Jon Howard, Freddy Grimsley, Freddie Speight, John Wheaton, Kregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Nathaniel Keaton, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, E. Dice Roberts, and Christopher Wheeler.

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

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 26 members present representing 11 counties and a quorum was present. Grady, Seminole and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the May 2020 meeting minutes to be approved. Al Hutchins motioned the minutes be accepted and John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays told the Council that there was an Audit Committee meeting. Executive Director Suzanne Angell have the audit committee report, in the absence of the Audit Committee Chair, Paul Nagy. After reviewing the proposals from potential auditors and utilizing a scoring rubric, the Committee recommended Valenti, Rackley, and Associates provide auditing services to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission the next 5 years. Valenti, Rackley and Associates scored the highest technical score and submitted the lowest cost proposal. John Spann made the motion to accept the Audit Committee's recommendation. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the Executive Committee recommended FY21 preliminary budget that has been tabled since the May meeting. John Spann made the motion to approve the preliminary FY21 budget. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the FY21 Minimum Unassigned Fund Balance. Charlie Sol made the motion. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the planning department report. Ms. Reddick asked for approval to solicit letters of intent from our local governments for the AARP Age Friendly Regional Pilot Program. Wanda Warren made the motion to solicit the letters. Norma Gilpatrick seconded the motion; all agreed. There are three Community Work Program 5-year Comprehensive Plan updates that are in progress. These are Albany/Dougherty County, Bainbridge, and Grady County and the cities in Grady County. The implementation meetings for FY20 have been completed for the counties and cities in the region. The Annual Housing Conference in Albany is on hold. The Regional Work Program was due on May 30, 2020 and was submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). We are still waiting on the announcements for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the City of Poulan. The Redevelopment Fund Grant for the City of Colquitt is in progress. Camilla submitted an

Immediate Threat and Danger application. Mitchell County and the City of Arlington had zoning reviews. Worth County has ordinance updates.

The Finance Director Barbara Wilbon presented the Financial Reports for the period ending May 31, 2020 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a deficit of \$20,036.89 bringing the ending fund balance to \$535,992.99. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$624.27 bringing the ending fund balance to \$298,390.02. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$72,875.84 bringing the ending fund balance to \$310,957.77. The Regional Partners Network had small deficit of \$75.56 bringing their fund balance to \$7,280.08. The Defined Benefit Plan had a deficit of \$70,289.46. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the May 2020 financial report and Glenda Battle seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented her Executive Director's Report. Kebo's reopened their dining room on Tuesday, June 16. She contacted the SWGRC attorney Wednesday morning to tell her that we needed to start discussions with them again since their employees and customers are again parking in our lot. Kebos asked for a lower rent amount. John Spann motioned to rent the parking lot to Kebo's Barbecue at \$5 per space per month starting July 1st and ending December 31, 2020 and that they provide proof of liability insurance. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; Norma Gilpatrick abstained; all other present voted aye. With the Georgia General Assembly back in session, HB 1122 was assigned to the Senate Government Oversight Committee, chaired by Bill Heath, and passed in the same language that it came from the House. It will now go to the Senate Rules Committee. Mrs. Angell enclosed a copy of the HB1122 as submitted to the Senate and passed by Senate Committee in the packets. Our office is now open, and most employees are back working regular hours. We still have some employees with childcare issues that are working from home either some of the time or all the time. She said she is hoping most of those employees will have issues resolved and be back at work by July 1. We still do have one high-risk employee that is covered under the shelter in place order. She is working from home but comes into the office occasionally (her choice). We are equipped with thermometers to take temperatures and we continue to sanitize our workspaces regularly, encourage social distancing, frequent hand washing and we wear our masks if we are in someone's presence or in a common area. It was proposed by some council members that perhaps we should change to quarterly council meetings for the full council and allow the Executive Committee to handle business in the months between. This matter will be tabled until a full council meeting can be held. We have received our 5311 Transportation contract with the CARES Act funding (FY20 and FY21). We have also submitted two non-competitive CARES Act applications to EDA (Planning and RLF). We should get award information back quickly for this funding. Mrs. Angell stated she is still assisting Mitchell County with their TSPLOST process. They will be holding a meeting Tuesday evening, June 23, to review projects submitted by all the government entities in Mitchell County and to review the intergovernmental agreements. The Senior Centers in our communities are closing indefinitely. This is all due to a SOWEGA Council on Aging "model" change. Mrs. Angell said she is facilitating a meeting in Camilla (at The Depot) on Tuesday, June 30 at 1PM between the SOWEGA Council on Aging and local leaders in the region. The invite was sent out to all the City/County Managers in the region. Hopefully, this meeting will help to clear up some of the questions of what the future is for our senior centers and our senior programs. Due to COVID-19, limited space is available, but we hope to have at least one representative (city or county or someone else with a vested interest) from each county in our region. No governments were visited due to COVID 19. There was a QRyde Dashboard Demonstration on June 2nd. The GARC Executive Director's meeting was held virtually on June 4th. Mrs. Angell gave a short Regional Commission update at the Georgia Municipal Associations' virtual District Meeting on June 4th.

Chairman Mays mentioned that it was time for the Council to elect a new member to the Ethics Committee. Paul Nagy's term expires at the end of June 2020. With no nominations, Chairman Mays asked for volunteers. Wanda Warren of Thomasville volunteered. Donnie Baggett made the motion to appoint Wanda Warren to the Ethics Committee for a two-year term. Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays stated no other business, the next meeting is July the 30th. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Elaine Mays, Chairman


Suzanne Angell, Executive Director