

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

September 27, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, September 27, 2018, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Glenda Battle chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Jeffery Haynes, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Ken Hickey, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Charles Jones, and Karen Rackley.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Ferrell Ruis, Anthony Jones, Matthew Reed, Keith Moye, Allen Worsley, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Danny Palmer, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Courtney Brinson, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Deidre Evans-Severson, Preston Jimmerson, B.J. Fletcher, Dennis Roland, Ernest Johnson, and Fred Dent.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Planning Director Barbara Reddick, Senior Planner Steve O'Neil, and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Guests present were Pelham City Manager Craig Bennett, Region 10 Department of Community Affairs Representative Gina Webb, Kathy Wade, John Peterson, Tom White, Toney Thompson, Charlie Sol, Kathy Speight, WIOA Director Melody Pierce, and Congressman Sanford Bishop Representative Paul Fryer.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 13 counties and a quorum was present. He noted Baker County, Decatur County, Early County and Thomas County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Glenda Battle asked that August minutes be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Region 10 Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Representative Gina Webb was asked to address the Council. Ms. Webb spoke of personnel changes within the DCA. In August Deana Perry was announced as the new Executive Director of the Rural Broadband Program. Kyle Good Replaced Saralynn Stafford as the Director of Auxiliary Services. She spoke of the DCA disseminating tornado and Hurricane Irma relief funds. Ms. Webb spoke of Federal Opportunity Zones and Georgia Opportunity Zones. Ms. Webb spoke of Plan First Communities. She said that in May the City of Sylvester and Colquitt Counties became Plan First Communities. These communities can apply for Community Block Grants (CDBGs) every year for three years instead of every other year. Part of the requirement to become a Plan First Community is proving the city or county that is applying is using their Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Battle asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to present the Council with her staff report for the Planning Department. A Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) has been submitted. If awarded this would allow for \$100,000 to rehabilitate 10-12 housing units region wide. A Rural Zone Application has been submitted for the City of Sylvester. This will enable the city to offer a tax credit to businesses in downtown Sylvester. The Terrell County Pre-Hazard Mitigation plan has been Submitted. Ms. Reddick announced Senior Planner Steve O'Neil would be leaving the Regional Commission and has accepted a position with the City of Bainbridge as their Planning Coordinator. Senior Planner Steve O'Neil was asked to give an update on his projects. The Planning Department is working with the City of Whigham on amendments to their zoning ordinances. The City of Sylvester is getting a new zoning ordinance. The GIS department is working on Whigham's new zoning map and minor changes to the zoning map for

the City of Camilla. Camilla is also receiving a new zoning ordinance. Mr. O'Neil has been working on a service delivery strategy for Thomas County, Lee County, Colquitt County, and Worth County. Worth County's Comprehensive Plan has been approved. Lee County's Comprehensive Plan is still in progress.

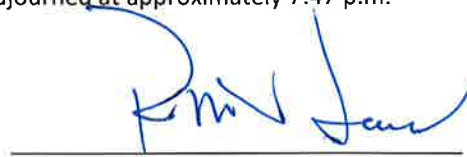
Glenda Battle asked Director Robert McDaniel to give the August 2018 financial report. Mr. McDaniel reported that the General Fund had a year to date loss of \$1,117.10. This was due to the abnormally high expenses of 3 pay periods during the month. The General Fund's ending fund balance was \$484,885.79. The Revolving Loan Fund had net surplus of \$504.11 which brings the fund balance to \$293,624.15. Mr. McDaniel stated that the Transportation fund broke even. The Defined Benefit Pension Trust Fund had a year to date gain on investments for the year of \$38,580.96. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept the August 2018 financial report. Terry Scott seconded the motion. All agreed.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel was asked to give his Executive Director report. Mr. McDaniel stated that the November/December Council meeting will be hosted by the City of Colquitt and Miller County at their new state theatre building downtown Colquitt. To set the date for that meeting there needed to be a vote. After discussion among the Council the date of Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. was on the table. Al Hutchins made the motion to accept Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time for the November/December meeting. Donnie Baggett seconded that motion. All agreed.

The next meeting will be held October 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. With there being no other business, Dwight Hickman made a motion to adjourn followed by Billy Poppell who seconded that motion. All agreed. The September 2018 meeting adjourned at approximately 7:47 p.m.



Danny Palmer, Treasurer



Robert McDaniel, Secretary