

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting Minutes
Camilla, Georgia
December 13, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the Colquitt State Theater in Colquitt, 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, Ferrell Ruis, Preston Jimmerson, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Freddy Grimsley, Jeffery Haynes, Al Hutchins, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Carolos Williams, Jayme Smith, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Fred Dent, and Karen Rackley.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Steve Brock, Billy Poppell, B.J. Fletcher, Freddie Speight, Ben Hayward, Courtney Brinson, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Deidre Evans-Severson, Kregg Close, Raymond Breaux, Matthew Reed, Keith Moye, Dennis Roland, Allen Worsley, Ernest Johnson, Ken Hickey, Terry Scott, and Charles Jones.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Executive Assistant Heather White, and Planning Director Barbara Reddick.

Guests present were Gerald Beard, Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley & Associates, Debra Jones, Hollis Smith, Wilder Smith, Shirley King, Sammie Battle, Paul Fryer, Representative for Congressman Sanford Bishop, John Peterson, Harriet Walden, Colquitt City Manager Corey Thomas, George Williams, Jerry Bush, Nancy Palmer, Kacie Holt, and Kathy Wade.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 6:42 p.m.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked for a motion for the approval of the revised agenda for the December 31, 2018 Council Meeting. Dwight Hickman motioned for the revised agenda to be approved. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 31 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker, Colquitt, and Seminole Counties had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked that October 2018 minutes be approved. Elaine Mays motioned the minutes be accepted and John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel presented 100% attendance awards to the following Council members that had perfect attendance for the 2018 calendar year; Dwight Hickman, Nathaniel Keaton, Al Hutchins and Donnie Baggett. He thanked them for their service.

Audit Committee Chairman Danny Palmer was asked to give the Audit Committee report. A copy of the draft audit was passed out to the attendees. He stated that the Audit Committee met with auditor Nick Valenti just prior to the Council meeting. Mr. Valenti went over the draft FY18 audit report with the committee and the committee voted in favor of presenting to the Council for Council approval. Mr. Nick Valenti with Valenti, Rackley & Associates was asked to present the FY18 audit to the Council. Mr. Valenti stated that the audit will be filed on time. Mr. Valenti reviewed the audit with the Council and stated that audit was a clean audit. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission ended in the black. The only portion remaining is the management response. Chairman Glenda Battle asked for a motion to accept the draft FY18 Audit. Danny Palmer made the motion to accept the draft FY18 audit. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to give her staff report. Ms. Reddick said the planning Department has been very busy as usual. They submitted five Community Housing

Improvement Program (CHIP) grants. These were for Camilla, Arlington, Donalsonville, Boston and the Sylvester Housing Authority. The Sylvester Housing Authority grant is the first new construction grant the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission has ever applied for. Hazard Mitigation Plans and Solid Waste Plans are being completed. A Department of Transportation Grant and an Economic Development Grant has been submitted. Currently the Planning Department is working on an Updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). There are no new contracts, but the department is busy working on the current contracts. The planners are working on comprehensive plans for Lee County and Worth County. Extensions have been filed on several Service Delivery Strategies. The Work Program Resolution has already been approved and just needs to be adopted. Dwight Hickman made a motion to adopt the Work Program Resolution. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the October 2018 financial report. Mrs. Angell reported that the General Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$177.97. The General Fund's ending fund balance was \$486,180.86. The Revolving Loan Fund had a year to date surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$1,139.93 which brings the fund balance to \$294,259.97. Mrs. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net revenues over expenditures of \$24,006.08 and the ending fund balance is \$209,750.18. The Regional Partners Network has a fund balance of \$7,484.59. The defined benefit Pension Trust Fund had a year to date gain on investments for the year of \$3,582.98. Danny Palmer made a motion to accept the October 2018 financial report and Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell informed the Council that each year the Regional Commission needs to apply for 5311 and 5304 transportation funds. The Council needs to give their approval in the form of a vote for the Commission to apply for those funds. Donnie Baggett made a motion to apply for 5311 transportation funds. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed. Jack Powell made the motion to apply for 5304 transportation funds. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell asked the Council for approval of the revised Southwest Georgia Regional Transit Procurement Policy Manual, which revised the thresholds for purchases. This revision was requested by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Dwight Hickman made a motion to approve the revised manual. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed.

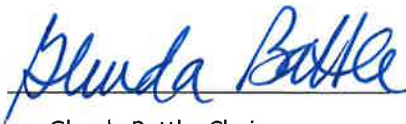
Chairman Glenda Battle announced her appointments to the Nominating Committee. She announced Elaine Mays as the Chairman of the Committee. Other members include Norma Gilpatrick, Benny Flowers, Joe Walden, Freddie Grimsley, and Paul Nagy. The committee will meet before the January meeting and develop a slate of officers and Executive Committee members to present to the Council. That slate of officers and Executive Committee members and other suggestions from the Council will be tabled for a month and voted on at the February meeting.

Director Robert McDaniel announced that the next Council meeting would be held at the Regional Commission on January 31, 2019.

Congressman Sanford Bishop's representative Paul Fryer was asked to give the Council a legislative update. He said a farm bill has passed. There have been 90 million pounds of debris from Hurricane Michael removed so far and another 50 million pounds of debris is expected to be removed still. He asked if there are any issues with contractors to please contact Sanford Bishop's office.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked for a motion to adjourn. Donnie Baggett made a motion to adjourn. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary