

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

February 28, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, February 28, 2019, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Glenda Battle chaired the first half of the meeting and the 2019 Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the second half of the meeting. The following council members were present: Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Deidre Evans-Severson, Paul Nagy, Virginia Hart, Gregg Close, Billy Poppell, Jon Howard, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, June Knight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Al Bryan, Elaine Mays, and Christopher Wheeler.

Council members calling to report conflicts Benny Flowers, Steve Brock, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Ed Wade, Donnie Baggett, Karen Rackley, Courtney Brinson, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Ferrell Ruis, Preston Jimmerson, Matthew Reed, Jefferey Haynes, Gregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Ernest Johnson, Terry Scott, and Joe Gaines.

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

Guests present were Speaker, Johnny Hamilton, Jr., Vice President of Business Lending for Albany Community Together, Tonita McKnight, Business Development Officer for Albany Community Together, Speaker Sandra Cosby of Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Mike Cosby, John Peterson, Kathy Speight, Herven Severson, Julian Knight, and Toney Thompson.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 32 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker County, Grady County, Lee County, Mitchell County, and Seminole County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for the January 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Dwight Hickman motioned the minutes be accepted and Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle introduced the guest speakers from Albany Community Together, Johnny Hamilton, Jr. and Tonita McKnight. Ms. McKnight gave a presentation to the Council about Albany Communities Together, their loans and loan requirements for businesses. Mr. Johnny Hamilton then had a question and answer session.

Chairman Battle introduced Sandra Cosby from the Georgia Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Cosby informed the Council about her organization. She then discussed an important survey that the state of Georgia is doing to pinpoint the top needs of the regions of Georgia in behavior and developmental disabilities which includes drug addiction.

Chairman Battle asked Nominating Committee Chairman Elaine Mays to address the Council. Ms. Mays told the Council that the recommended slate of officers has been tabled for 30 days and with there not being any other nominations from the floor that it was time to vote. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept the slate of officers and Executive Committee members as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Al Hutchins seconded that motion; all agreed. The 2019 Executive Committee are as follows; Elaine Mays, Chairman, Brenda Peterson, Vice Chairman, Danny Palmer, Treasurer, Ben Hayward, Member, John Spann, Member, Jack Powell, Member, Glenda Battle, Member.

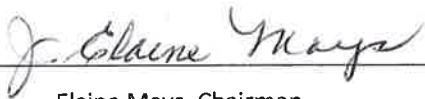
Glenda Battle then handed over the gavel to the 2019 Southwest Georgia Regional Council Chairman Elaine Mays.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to give her planning report. Mrs. Reddick said that the Planning Department has been very busy writing grants. She said that they were approved for a Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) in the amount of \$61,000. The Community Development Block Grant applications are due April 1st. The Community HOME Improvement Program (CHIP) award announcements will be made any day now. The Planning Department has been working on several solid waste plans that are in different stages of completion. March 6th through 8th is the newly elected officials training. Mrs. Reddick referenced her planning report for the Council to review the full scope of activities and grant writing their department has been working on.

Elaine Mays asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the January 2019 Financial Report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of \$29,876.03 and the ending General Fund balance was \$515,878.92. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was \$2,074.89 and the fund balance was \$295,194.93. Mrs. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net surplus of \$33,683.94 and the ending fund balance is \$219,428.04. The Regional Partners Network has a net deficit of \$98.95. This brings the fund balance to \$7,385.64. The Pension Trust Fund has a loss on investments of \$4,980.70. Danny Palmer made a motion to accept the January 2019 financial report and Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Elaine Mays asked the Executive Director to give his report. Director Robert McDaniel stated that the next meeting will be March 28, 2019 in Camilla at the Regional Commission offices. He said that the New Council Member Training will be held on that date from 2:30 p.m. until approximately 5:00 p.m.

With no other business, Chairman Mays asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glenda Battle motioned to adjourn. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed. Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary