

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

May 30, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, May 30, 2019, 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, Charlie Williams, Deidre Evans-Severson, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Preston Jimmerson, Steve Brock, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Matthew Reed, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, June Knight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Carols Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Terry Scott, Al Bryan, Joe Gaines, Christopher Wheeler, Karen Rackley (on the phone) and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Eddie Hopkins, Benny Flowers, Kregg Close, and Tracie Beard.

Council members absent were Freddy Grimsley, Jeffery Haynes, Nicole Nixon, and Ernest Johnson.

Staff members present were Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Planning Director Barbara Reddick, and Executive Assistant Heather White, GIS Technician Jeffery Hamilton and Reception Assistant Abby Casey.

Guests present were Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Region 10 Representative Gina Webb, WIOA Director Melody Pierce, Herven Severson, John Peterson, Julian Knight, Kathy Wade, and Danny Saturday.

Chairman Elaine Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. In Executive Director Robert McDaniel's absence, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell performed the Executive Director's Council Meeting duties. She began by acknowledging the well wishes, cards and phone calls the staff had received following Executive Director Robert McDaniel's unexpected death. Mrs. Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 41 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Colquitt County, Grady County, Lee County, Mitchell County, Thomas County and Worth County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the April 2019 meeting minutes to be approved with one typographical correction. Raymond Breaux motioned the minutes be accepted and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Mays said she is amending the agenda to move the Executive Committee's recommendation regarding the Executive Director position to the end of the agenda after the closed session. She asked Deputy Director Angell to present the FY19 Amended Budget. Mrs. Angell mentioned the Executive Committee met and recommended the adoption of the Amended FY19 Budget to the Council. Mrs. Angell reviewed the amended budget with the Council. Mrs. Mays asked for a motion to accept the FY19 budget revisions. Dwight Hickman made the motion. June Knight seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Angell reviewed the proposed FY20 Budget. The FY20 budget will be tabled for 30 days and voted on at the June 2019 meeting.

Chairman Mays asked the Council to take an FY19 Annual Performance Review and complete it for the Commission and for the Executive Director although Robert McDaniel passed away. Mrs. Angell said we are required by law and various agencies to complete an Annual Performance Review for the Executive Director. She stated that we need these returned no later than the June 2019 meeting. Heather White will be emailing an electronic copy in a format that can easily be filled out and returned by email if preferred.

Elaine Mays asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to give the April 2019 Planning Report. Mrs. Reddick reviewed the Regional Work Program (RWP) with the council and asked for a motion and a second to transmit the Regional Work Program to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (GDCA) on June 20th after the comment period is

over. John Spann made the motion; Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Reddick then reviewed the May Planning Report with the Council. She asked the Council to take a Transportation Survey to complete and return it as soon as possible. She asked Gina Webb to discuss the upcoming Fall 2019 Georgia Academy. Ms. Webb said the dates for the classes will be August 22nd, September 26th, October 31st, and November 21st.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell presented the Financial Reports for the period ending April 30, 2019 with the Council. The General Fund had a net surplus of \$32,125.45 bringing the ending fund balance to \$518,128.34. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$3,620.82 bringing the ending fund balance to \$296,740.86. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$40,733.50 bringing the ending fund balance to \$226,477.60. The Defined Benefit Plan has a gain on investments of \$36,054.34. Jack Powell made a motion to accept the April 2019 financial report and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked for any other business to come before the Council. No one had any new business.

Chairman Mays began her Executive Committee Report mentioning that the Executive Committee met on May 9, 2019 and there was a discussion regarding filling the now vacant position of Executive Director. Two of the members joined the meeting by phone. A motion was made at that Executive Committee meeting for Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to be promoted as the new Executive Director. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the results were five to two in favor of the promotion. Ms. Mays mentioned she would like to go into Executive (closed) Session to discuss this. She asked all staff members and all guests to leave the room for a few minutes. Mr. Poppell asked if we need a motion in order to go into Executive Session. He asked if he could go ahead and make a motion on the Executive Committee's recommendation to promote Mrs. Angell. Ms. Mays stated that he cannot and that she has the prerogative to call an Executive Session first. Mr. Poppell asked again if they are able to make a motion to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to promote Suzanne Angell to Executive Director before the Executive Session. Mrs. Mays said she, as the Chairman has the prerogative to go into Executive Session. Mr. Poppell invoked Robert's Rules of Order in order to make his motion. Mr. Poppell then made a motion to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to promote Suzanne Angell to Executive Director. Steve Brock seconded the motion. Chairman Mays stated we have a motion and a second. It was mentioned that the agenda reflects that there will be an Executive Session. Mr. Poppell mentioned that the vote for the Executive Committee's recommendation should have happened where it was on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Mays stated she has the right to change the agenda because it is not a consent agenda. She stated she took the privilege of putting it down below. She then recognized Billy Poppell's motion again and Steve Brock's second to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to promote Suzanne Angell to the Executive Director's position. She said she was unsure whether she must accept that motion and second. Mr. Anthony Jones mentioned in order to interrupt the motion there had to be a substitute motion made. Glenda Battle made a substitute motion to go into Executive Session before taking a vote regarding the Executive Committee's recommendation to hire Suzanne Angell as the Executive Director. Matt Reed seconded the substitute motion. Chairman Mays asked for a vote by show of hands on the substitute motion to go into Executive Session. Executive Assistant Heather White stood and took count of those voting for the substitute motion and those against. There were twelve that voted to go into Executive Session, twenty-seven opposed (including the phone participant), and two that did not vote. The original motion made by Billy Poppell and seconded by Steve Brock to hire Suzanne Angell as Executive Director as recommended by the Executive Committee was then voted on. Once again, Mrs. White stood up to take count of those agreeing with the recommendation. There were 33 that voted for the promotion of Mrs. Angell (including Mrs. Rackley on the phone), five opposed, and three that did not vote. Matt Reed wanted to be on record stating that he opposes the process that the Council just went through. Mrs. Mays wanted to be put on record that the reason she and Glenda Battle opposed Mrs. Angell's hiring was because they felt it was important to do an outside search for a new

Executive Director. Chairman Mays said based on the vote, Suzanne Angell is promoted to the Executive Director position.

Chairman Mays discussed with the Council the positions that will now have to be filled at the Regional Commission. The positions are a Senior Planner, a Transportation Planner/ Director, and a Finance Director. Executive Director Suzanne Angell said that there would be ads placed and searches to fill these positions immediately. The Council asked about the Deputy Director's position that is now empty. Glenda Battle made a motion to make Planning Director Barbara Reddick the Deputy Director and the motion was seconded by Dwight Hickman. The validity of the Council hiring a Deputy Director was questioned and it was stated that the Executive Director hires a Deputy Director. The need for a Deputy Director was questioned and Mrs. Angell mentioned that she would review the budget and make a decision concerning the promotion of Barbara Reddick to Deputy Director and would report back to the Council in June. Glenda Battle withdrew her motion. Dwight Hickman withdrew his second of the motion.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion to adjourn. Dwight Hickman made the motion. Matt Reed seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:18 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director

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