

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

June 27, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 27, 2019, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Steve Brock, Gregg Close, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Al Hutchins, Jim Sellers, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Al Bryan, Christopher Wheeler and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Chris Moore, Revonn Miller, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Jeffery Haynes, Freddie Speight, June Knight, Joe Walden, Glenda Battle, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Terry Scott, Joe Gaines, and Karen Rackley.

Council members absent were Preston Jimmerson, Matthew Reed, John Wheaton, Nicole Nixon, and Ernest Johnson.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Executive Assistant Heather White, and GIS Manager Heidi Penny.

Guests present were ACCG County Consulting Services Manager Bill Twomey, PPM Consultants Community Outreach Specialist Charles Ray (speaker), Linkscape360 Elaine Armster, Herven Severson, Queenie Grimes, Cynthia Hopkins, John Peterson, and Lucius Hayes.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. She asked for a motion to accept an amended agenda to include the following action items: the authorization to change bank signature cards and the consideration of an extra staff holiday. Mitchell Blanks made the motion to accept the amended agenda. Steve Brock seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Calhoun County and Mitchell County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the May 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Jim Sellers motioned the minutes be accepted and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Charles Ray, who spoke about Brownfields. Mr. Ray spoke to the Council on opportunities for cities and counties to get funding to make brownfields safe and attractive to potential buyers or usable for communities as public parks or other recreational areas.

Chairman Mays told the Council that there was a Transportation Committee meeting. The meeting minutes from July 12, 2018 meeting was approved. She said there was a recommendation to approve the current provider contract renewals for an additional year. She asked Director Suzanne Angell to explain what that means to the Council. Mrs. Angell explained that each provider was evaluated by randomly picked riders each month. They also are evaluated by the Georgia Department of Human Services, completed by the Human Service Agencies as well as the consumers going to these agencies on the transit system. All providers scored excellent or good. She asked for a motion to approve the annual renewal of the transit providers' contracts for another year. Dwight Hickman made the motion. Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked for a motion to accept the Executive Committee recommended FY20 preliminary budget that has been tabled since the May meeting. John Spann made the motion to approve the preliminary FY20 budget. Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

GIS Manager Heidi Penny gave a GIS report. She spoke of tax parcel updates, zoning changes and other projects that the GIS department is currently working on for individual counties and cities. She said that the LUCA paperwork has been submitted. Census track and block changes are in the process of being completed. Jeff is also working on the MAP21 project (working to make sure Georgia Department of Transportation maps are correct for street signs, road names, etc.).

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the planning department report. Several of the larger Georgia Department of Community Affairs projects are being completed. There are two Georgia Department of Transportation contracts. One of those are near completion. Community Development Block Grant awards will not be announced until September. The Planning Department is working on hazard mitigation plans. Mrs. Reddick said she needed a motion to proceed with applying for brownfield grants. Dwight Hickman made the motion. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked the Council to continue to submit their Annual Performance Surveys for the Regional Commission and Executive Director.

Linkscape360's Elaine Armster addressed the Council. Ms. Armster thanked the Council for working with her when she worked with GDOT. She said they used \$160 billion dollars from a federal program to provide non-motorized transportation assets to communities in the state of Georgia. This was referred to as the "T" Project. The program was such a success that Ms. Armster was asked to speak at the national conference. This program with cooperation from the communities was awarded best in class.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave an update on staffing. Barbara Reddick was promoted to Deputy Director. A Finance Director has been hired and will start in mid-July. An Economic Developer/Transportation Planner staff person is being sought. There is a possibility to hire within for that position. We are still seeking a Senior Planner.

Mrs. Angell said that she attended the Georgia Association of Regional Commission meeting in Macon at the end of June. Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Reddick attended the Grady County Tired Creek meeting. Also, Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Reddick met with Gina Webb, Region 10 Representative of the Department of Community Affairs.

The Executive Director presented the Financial Reports for the period ending May 31, 2019 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net surplus of \$43,755.47 bringing the ending fund balance to \$529,758.36. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$4,058.12 bringing the ending fund balance to \$297,178.16. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$45,874.06 bringing the ending fund balance to \$231,618.16. The Regional Partners Network had small deficit of \$128.95 bringing their fund balance to \$7355.64. The Defined Benefit Plan had a gain on investments of \$4,483.28. Jack Powell made a motion to accept the May 2019 financial report and Danny Palmer seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Angell said that the next action item was the approval of the revision of the Fund Balance Policy. Everywhere the term Deputy Director is mentioned it will be replaced with the wording Finance Director. Dwight Hickman made the motion to approve the revision. Al Hutchins Seconded the motion; all agreed.

The next action item mentioned by the Executive Director was the approval of the FY20 Target Fund Balance in the amount of \$353,628.51. Billy Poppell made a motion to approve the FY20 Target Fund Balance. Steve Brock seconded the motion; all agreed.

The Executive Director said next they need approval of purchases in FY20 with excess unassigned fund balance. She mentioned that the Regional Commission has three vehicles that need constant repair. We would like to sell them and purchase 2 replacements through a municipal lease. In addition, several computers need replacing. Billy Poppell made the motion to approve the purchases. Jayme Smith seconded the motion; all agreed.


The next action item is for authorization from the Council to replace Robert McDaniel on the signature card with Barbara Reddick. Billy Poppell made the motion to approve Deputy Director Barbara Reddick on the signature card. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked for authorization to make a Personnel Policy change to add an extra holiday (Monday or Friday) when a holiday falls on a Tuesday or Thursday. Donnie Baggett made the motion to approve the change to the Personnel Policy. Billy Poppell seconded the motion; all agreed.

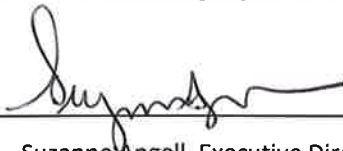
Mrs. Angell introduced Bill Twomey, ACCG County Consulting Services Manager, and asked if he had any information from ACCG that he wanted to share. He stated that the ACCG and GMA Executive Directors are working great together and there is a lot of synergy between the two groups.

Chairman Mays mentioned Benny Flowers and Al Bryan are the new Ethics Committee members.

Chairman Mays stated no other business, the next meeting is July the 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director