

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

July 27, 2017

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, July 27, 2017, 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, Chuck Cowart, Bennie Watts Jones, Ferrell Ruis, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Bobby Coleman, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, June Merritt, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Randy Hill, Karen Rackley, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Paul Nagy, Dollie Crumley, Henry Crumley, Keith Moye, Elaine Mays, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Dennis Brinson, Revonn Miller, Erica Savage Wilson, Dennis Roland, Jerry Bush, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Jack Powell, Ken Hickey, Fred Dent, and David Mosely.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Planning Director Barbara Reddick, Planner Kim Brooks, Senior Planner Steve O'Neil, GIS Manager Heidi Penny, GIS Assistant Jeff Hamilton, and Grant Administrator Brenda Wade.

Guests present were John Peterson, Kathy Wade, Sam Burford, Tim Pinson, Delinda Bryant, and Gina Webb.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 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 Mitchell, Baker, Calhoun, and Early County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the council. Glenda Battle asked that June 2017 minutes be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Ms. Battle introduced Department of Community Affairs representative Gina Webb to address the council. Ms. Webb presented a slide show HB73, or, the Rural Bill. This bill is to revive downtown areas and revitalize them as commercial districts as they were originally intended. Through this bill there will be incentives for job creation, commercial investment and business activities through three tax credits; the job tax credit, the investment tax credit and the rehabilitation tax credit. The law will go into effect January 1, 2018.

Senior Planner Steve O'Neil reported to the committee about the Environmental Committee's meeting that was held just before the council meeting. He stated that the topic of discussion was solar panels on private housing. The discussion was focused on pros and cons of citizens utilizing panels on their homes and how the public needs to have a discussion with Georgia Power before making that investment. Even though there would be solar energy there is not enough battery storage for an entire household and residential electric will have to still supplement what is needed.

Chairman Glenda Battle gave the Executive Committee report to the council. The Executive Committee met just prior to the council meeting to discuss results of the Annual Performance Review. This performance review was passed out to the council at the recommendation of the Executive Committee. She asked for a motion to approve the results of the 2017 Performance Review of the SWGRC and Executive Director Robert McDaniel. Raymond Breaux made a motion to accept the review results as presented. Randy Hill made the second motion; all agreed.

Chairman Battle asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to present the council with her staff report for the Planning Department. She stated that the Planning Department is currently completing many contracts. A

housing preservation grant has been submitted. Steve O'Neil is working on three environmental plans and hazard mitigation plans. Currently there are eight comprehensive plans that are being worked on. Ms. Reddick asked for a motion to accept the resolution that will formally adopt the Southwest Georgia Regional Plan. The plan has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Randy Hill made the motion and Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the June 2017 financial report. Ms. Angell told the council about the new accounting software that was implemented July 1, 2017. She forewarned the council that their financial statements may have a different look to them because of this change beginning next month. Ms. Angell let the council know that the annual audit has begun. She mentioned that since the June 2017 financial report is year-end that the numbers should be considered preliminary. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$61,178.43. The General Fund's ending fund balance was \$355,265.32. The Revolving Loan Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$2,026.10 which brings the fund balance to \$294,039.92. Ms. Angell stated that the year to date excess of revenues over expenditures for the year of the Regional Transit Program is \$4,229.03 and the ending fund balance is \$152,302.31. The defined benefit Pension Trust Fund had a year to date gain on investments for the year of \$98,079.42. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the June 2017 financial report and Terry Scott seconded the motion. All agreed.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel introduced the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager Heidi Penny. Ms. Penny spoke to the council about the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). She stated that the local governments need to confirm that the addresses provided by the Census needs to be confirmed so that the count will be accurate. She reviewed the timeline with the council.

Chairman Glenda Battle mentioned that the next Council meeting would be held at the Regional Commission meeting room August 31, 2017. Mitchell Blanks made a motion to adjourn. Terry Scott seconded the motion; all agreed.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary