

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting Minutes
Camilla, Georgia
October 26, 2017

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, October 26, 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, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Bobby Coleman, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Matthew Reed, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Dwight Hickman, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Fred Dent, Randy Hill, Courtney Brinson, Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Dollie Crumley, Henry Crumley, Anthony Jones, June Merritt, Keith Moye, Joe Walden, Jerry Bush, Ken Hickey, and Karen Rackley.

Council members absent were Dennis Brinson, Dennis Roland, Chad Griffin, Ernest Johnson, Jack Powell, and Terry Scott.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Executive Assistant Heather White, High School Intern Abby Casey, Grant Administrator Brenda Wade, Planner Kimberly Brooks, Planning Assistant Tonya Rossitter, and Planning Director Barbara Reddick.

Guests present were John Peterson, Kathy Wade, Grady County Manager Carlos Tobar, Charlie Sol, Delinda Bryant, Executive Director of WIOA Melody Pierce, and USDA Area Director of Rural Development Deborah Bell-Dison, and Kelsie Casey.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 34 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Mitchell, Calhoun, Baker, and Seminole County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the council.

Glenda Battle asked that September 2017 minutes be approved. Randy Hill motioned the minutes be accepted and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle invited the guest speaker USDA Area Director of Rural Development Deborah Bell-Dison to give her presentation to the council. Ms. Bell-Dison let the Council know that USDA has housing, business industry and community programs that have money available. She was there to talk about community programs. She said they are divided into community facilities and water and waste. She said once you have an essential project there is staff at Rural Development that will assist the city or county with the paperwork and the steps needed to receive money available. She mentioned that last minute applications would not be considered because there is a waiting list and at the top of that list are applicants from the previous year.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to give her staff report. She said that a USDA Housing Preservation Grant was awarded in the amount of \$62,979.10 to assist 12 very low income homeowners with rehabilitation. Steve O'Neil is working on pre-hazard mitigation plans for Seminole, Terrell and Grady County. Solid Waste Plans are being worked on for Bainbridge and Colquitt County. In review with the Economic Development Agency is a Business Incubator Grant for Moultrie. The Universal Design Institute Grant Housing Rehab is in progress. Two homes have been completed and a total of six will be completed with the first \$50,000 awarded. The second \$50,000

will work on six additional homes. The City of Albany Public Service Grant is in progress. The draft is underway for the Camilla zoning contract. The City of Sylvester housing projects housing fair is being conducted on October 28th.

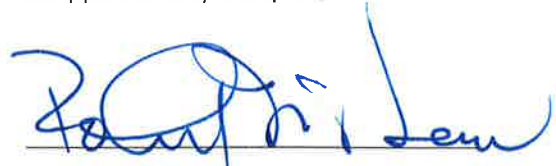
Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the September 2017 financial report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$30,453.25. The General Fund's ending fund balance was \$384,916.06. The Revolving Loan Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$1,697.73 which brings the fund balance to \$295,738.27. Ms. Angell stated that the year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of the Regional Transit Program is \$82.45 and the ending fund balance is \$152,406.15. The defined benefit Pension Trust Fund had a year to date gain on investments for the year of \$27,678.02. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the September 2017 financial report and Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed. Ms. Angell asked for a motion to pass transportation resolutions for the 5310 program, the 5311 program and the 5304 program. These resolutions authorize the Regional Commission to apply for the grants. Donnie Baggett made the motion to approve the resolutions. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed. After studying the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation of the SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation, Ms. Angell and Mr. McDaniel found that both stated the purpose of the organization was to encourage and promote economic development. They found that it would be appropriate to charge to the inactive fund, SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation; for certain charges incurred related to economic development by the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. This information was also reviewed with our auditors and they agreed. Ed Wade made the motion to accept this way of dissolving the inactive fund, SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel let the Council know that census designations are due by December 15th. Mr. McDaniel let the Council know that there will be census training on November 14th at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission's large conference room at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Glenda Battle mentioned that the next Council meeting would be held at the Regional Commission on December 7, 2017. Donnie Baggett made a motion to adjourn. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:03 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary