

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting Minutes
Camilla, Georgia
December 7, 2017

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, December 7, 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, Ferrell Ruis, Gregg Close, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Jerry Bush, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Ed Wade, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Fred Dent, Randy Hill, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Benny Watts Jones, Revonn Miller, June Merritt, Freddie Speight, Keith Moye, Danny Palmer, Mitchell Blanks, Karen Rackley and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Paul Nagy, Dennis Brinson, Bobby Coleman, Matthew Reed, Dennis Roland, Carlos Williams, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Jack Powell, and Ken Hickey.

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, and Planning Director Barbara Reddick.

Guests present were Sammie Battle, Harriet Walden, John Peterson, Faye Bush, Kathy Wade, Cynthia Hopkins, Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley and Associates, Tony Thompson, and Gina Webb of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 28 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked that October 2017 minutes be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Terry Scott seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to give her staff report. She said that they are winding down the end of the year in the Planning Department. They are working on an Immediate Threat and Danger grant for the cities of Leary and Meigs. Five CHIP applications were submitted in November for the cities of Cordele, Dawson, Donalsonville, Colquitt and Pavo. Kimberly is working on a Recreational Trails grant for the City of Pelham and the City of Sasser. Steve is finalizing the last of the Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans for Seminole, Grady, and Terrell County. Barbara is working on two Solid Waste Plans for Bainbridge and Colquitt County. She is also working on two housing plans for the City of Donalsonville and the City of Pavo. There are six Universal Design Institute projects that are being finalized. Four Planning Staff attended CDBG Training in Macon. Six staff attended the GARC training in St. Simons Island in November. The Planning Department is working on six Comprehensive Plans that have been already approved and adopted and four others in various stages. There is a total of 10 Comprehensive Plans being worked on. Grants Administrator Brenda Wade addressed questions regarding CHIP Grant funds.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the October 2017 financial report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$33,562.59. The General Fund's ending fund balance was \$384,709.40. The Revolving Loan Fund had

a year to date surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$1,497.65 which brings the fund balance to \$290,250.94. The SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation has a net deficit of \$460.26. That brought the fund balance down to \$13,371.92. Ms. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net revenues over expenditures of \$3,924.70 and the ending fund balance is \$156,248.40. The Regional Partners Network has net revenues over expenditures of \$500.00. This brings the fund balance to \$7,514.59. The defined benefit Pension Trust Fund had a year to date gain on investments for the year of \$38,568.16. Ed Wade made a motion to accept the October 2017 financial report and Freddie Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel presented 100% attendance awards to the following Council members that had 100% attendance for the 2017 calendar year; Chairman Glenda Battle, Raymond Breaux, Freddy Grimsley, John Spann, Randy Hill, Dwight Hickman, Donnie Baggett, and Ed Wade. He thanked them for their service.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel informed the Council about the end of the year audit. This year there are issues with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Council is being asked to vote to extend the period to submit the final audit until March 31, 2018 until the situation is cleared up. He said it is an acceptable action by the State of Georgia. The audit cannot be completed until these issues are cleared up.

Glenda Battle told the Council the Executive Committee and Transportation Committees unanimously agreed to extend the period to submit the final audit until March 31, 2018. Suzanne Angell and Robert McDaniel answered questions from the Council in regards to this audit delay request. Dwight Hickman moved that the audit be delayed until March 31, 2018. Billy Poppell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle mentioned Dollie and Henry Crumley's resignations from the Council. Henry Crumley was on the Ethics Committee and he needs to be replaced. With no nominations Jim Sellers volunteered. Billy Poppell made a motion to place Jim Sellers on the Ethics Committee. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed. She mentioned she appointed the Nominating Committee. She announced Elaine Mays as the Chairman of the Committee. Other members include Ed Wade, Chad Griffin, Joe Walden, Freddie Grimsley, and Eddie Hopkins.

Chairman Glenda Battle mentioned that the next Council meeting would be held at the Regional Commission on January 25, 2018. Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary