

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

January 25, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, January, 25, 2018, 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, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Watts Jones, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Kevin Branch, Preston Jimmerson, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, June Merritt, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Ken Hickey, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Fred Dent, Charles Jones, Karen Rackley, Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Dennis Brinson, Anthony Jones, Matthew Reed, Keith Moye, Allen Worsley, Jamey Smith, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Kregg Close, Matt Fuller, Dennis Roland, and Ernest Johnson.

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

Guests present were John Peterson, Kathy Wade, Charlie Sol, Stephen Collier, Thomas County Chairman Wiley Grady, Merisha Carelock, and Mr. Severson.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 39 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Mitchell County, Baker County, Calhoun County, Early County, Colquitt County, Seminole County, Thomas County, and Worth County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle introduced the guest speaker Albany Assistant City Manager of the Utilities Administration, Stephen Collier. Mr. Collier stated they just signed an agreement to supply services with the Marine Base. Water, Gas, and Light was chartered to become a large department within the city. He discussed the key personnel in the growth and changes in the City of Albany. He discussed selling utilities, natural gas and internet to surrounding communities bringing revenue to Albany.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for December minutes be approved. Paul Nagy motioned the minutes be accepted and Ferrell Ruis seconded the motion; all agreed.

Planning Director Barbara Reddick gave her planning report. She mentioned that they are currently working on the Immediate Threat and Danger Plan for the City of Leary and may be starting one for the City of Meigs. The Planning Department is still waiting on the Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) announcements. A Recreational Trails Grant was submitted for the City of Pelham. Mitigation Plans for Terrell County and Grady County are being worked on. A solid waste plan for the City of Bainbridge and Colquitt County is being worked on as well. The Homeless Count is underway. Kimberly Brooks is the staff assigned to the Homeless Count. The Economic Development Grant for the business incubator in Moultrie has been approved. The businesses incubator will be for new and existing businesses to grow and expand. Sixty jobs will be created and a \$2 million private investment. The Youth Summit is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> in Camilla at the RESA building. Sixty-eight students are registered from 8 schools. May 8<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Housing Conference at the Albany Civic Center. The Comprehensive Plans are being finalized. When they are complete, the Planning Department will start working on the Community Work Programs which is a component of the Comprehensive Plans.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give her Financial Report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of \$46,677.99 and the General Fund balance was \$397,824.80. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was \$2,224.39 and the fund balance was \$290,977.68. The SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation has a net deficit of \$4,027.65. That brought the fund balance down to \$9,804.53. Ms. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net deficit of \$295.87 and the ending fund balance is \$152,027.83. The Regional Partners Network has net revenues over expenditures of \$500.00. This brings the fund balance to \$7,514.59. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept the November and December 2017 financial report and Ed Wade seconded the motion; all agreed.

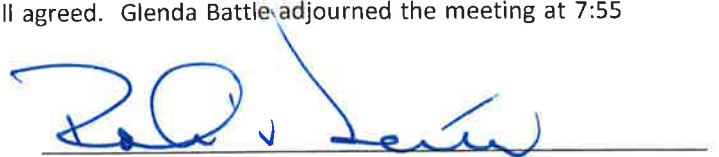
Glenda Battle asked Executive Director to give his report. He introduced the Nominating Committee Chairman Elaine Mays and asked her to present the recommended slate of officers. Elaine Mays presented the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers for 2018. The slate was as follows; Glenda Battle for Chairman, John Spann as Vice Chairman, and Danny Palmer as Treasurer, Brenda Peterson as member, Ben Hayward as member, Elaine Mays as member and Jack Powell as member. The Secretary will remain Executive Director Robert McDaniel. Ms. Mays stated that the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers will be tabled until the February Meeting. At the February meeting other recommendations from the floor would be heard and then voted on.

Glenda Battle told the Council that the Executive Committee and the Transportation Committee met prior to the January Council meeting to discuss the progress made with the Georgia Department of Transportation Audit Report. The corrective action plan was due but Suzanne Angell asked them to extend the deadline for the corrective action plan to February 26, 2018 and they agreed. The next order of business during the meeting was approval for a letter of intent to provide FY18 transit services for the Georgia Department of Human Services. A motion is needed to approve the submission of this letter. Dwight Hickman made the motion to submit the letter of intent. Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

With no other business, Glenda Battle announced the next meeting would be Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission building in Camilla. She asked for a motion to adjourn. Ken Hickey motioned to adjourn. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed. Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary