

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

June 28, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 28, 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, Billy Poppell, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Jeffery Haynes, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Ken Hickey, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Charles Jones, Karen Rackley, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Anthony Jones, Matt Fuller, Keith Moye, Jim Sellers, Jayme Smith, Danny Palmer, Tracie Beard, Fred Dent, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Preston Jimmerson, Dennis Brinson, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Matthew Reed, Joe Walden, Dennis Roland, Allen Worsley, Ernest Johnson, and Terry Scott.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Senior Planner Steve O'Neil, Executive Assistant Heather White, and High School Interns Eden Casey and Abbey Casey.

Guests present were Kathy Wade, Orlando Rambo, John Peterson, Steve Brock, Charlie Sol, Herven Severson, Toney Thompson, Katherine Speight, Queenie Grimes, Paul Fryer, State Representative Jay Powell, Georgia Department of Revenue Commissioner Lynn Riley, Kerry Herndon, Scott Purvis, Tiffany Powers, and James Cox.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 13 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker County, Calhoun County, and Early County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for the approval of the May 2018 minutes as presented. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the minutes and Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle introduced the Guest Speaker Georgia Department of Revenue Commissioner Lynn Riley. Commissioner Riley informed the Council of House Bill 61 that recently passed. House Bill 61 will bring revenue to local communities through an internet sales tax. She said that significant tax reforms were passed last December. The most significant change was the reduction in income tax rate from 6% to 5 ¾% that will begin January 1, 2019. There is hope that this will decrease even further by 2020.

Chairman Glenda Battle briefed the Council on the Executive Committee meeting. She asked the committee for a motion to approve the FY19 budget that had been tabled for 30 days. Dwight Hickman made the motion to approve the FY19 budget. Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed. Miss Battle asked for the approval of the FY19 Minimum Unassigned Fund Balance. Mitchell Blanks made the motion. Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked Ben Hayward who chaired the Audit Committee meeting to give his report. Mr. Hayward stated that the final FY18 audit which had been available for review was presented to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee recommended it be presented to the full council. He then stated he needed a motion to accept the FY17 Audit. Elaine Mays made the motion. Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked Raymond Breaux to give the Transportation Committee meeting report. Mr. Breaux stated that the Transportation Committee recommends the FY19 Transit Contract Awards to be presented to the

Council for their approval. The proposal scores were presented to the Council. Suzanne Angell explained the evaluation process and scores to the council. The evaluation team was made of two staff members and five Transportation Committee members. Based on the cost and technical scores, the proposers that were awarded sub-regions were MIDS, for sub-region one and sub-region three and RMS for sub-region two. Elaine Mays made the motion to approve. Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Personnel Committee Chairman Elaine Mays deferred to Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the Personnel Committee Report. Ms. Angell briefed the Council on the Personnel and Travel Policy changes. The Department of Community Affairs recommended all Regional Commissions to be under the state travel policy. Ms. Angell asked for a motion to adopt the statewide accounting travel policy and personnel policies as amended by the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Dwight Hickman made a motion to adopt the policies as presented. Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion. Twenty-seven members agreed; Mitchell Blanks voted nay.

Senior Planner Steve O'Neil presented the Planning Report to the Council. Leary's Immediate Threat and Danger grant was approved. Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans are being worked on. Terrell County's draft was submitted. Grady County's draft is in progress. Bainbridge and Colquitt County's Solid Waste Plans are in progress. Regional Bike and Pedestrian corridors are being updated. The preliminary multi-use trail network is completed. The Planning Department will be conducting Complete Streets training. Grady County's sidewalk inventory is completed.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the May 2018 Financial Report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of \$132,104.65 and the General Fund balance was \$483,251.46. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was \$3,739.11 and the ending fund balance was \$292,492.40. The SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation Fund balance had a net deficit of \$12,774.50 and the fund balance remaining is \$1,057.68. Ms. Angell stated that Regional Transportation Program has net surplus of \$27,569.83 and the ending fund balance is \$179,893.53. The Pension Trust Fund has a gain on investments of \$73,899.13. Jack Powell made a motion to accept the May 2018 financial report and Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked Executive Director to give his report. Mr. McDaniel said he needed nominations and a vote from the council for the replacement of Jim Seller's expired two year term on the Ethics Committee. Paul Nagy volunteered. Donnie Baggett made the motion to accept Paul Nagy as the Council's appointment on the committee. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed. Mr. McDaniel asked Heather White to come to the podium where he presented her with an employee five-year service award.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell asked for a motion to approve the MAP 21 contract. Dwight Hickman made the motion. Ray Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed.

With no other business, Glenda Battle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Billy Poppell made the motion. Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary