

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

January 27, 2022

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to a recent surge of COVID19 cases in the area, a virtual meeting was held via ZOOM and also accessible by telephone. Chairman Paul Nagy chaired the meeting and was present in person. The following council members were present via ZOOM: Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Johnsie Handfield, Barbara Grogan, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Dr. Charles Ochie, Sr., Raymond Breaux, Casawn-Lhuillier Yheweis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Jr., Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Sondra Walker, Doug Powell, Scott Chastain, Al Bryan, and Kemp Willis. Attending in person were John Spann, Donnie Baggett, and Elaine Mays.

Excused was Ferrell Ruis.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Darryl Warren, Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Freddie Speight, June Knight, John Wheaton, Kregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Christopher Wheeler, Melvin Harris, and Rodney Prince.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Director of Finance Traci Hall, and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Chairman Nagy called the meeting to order at approximately 6:17 p.m.

Executive Assistant Heather White gave the attendance report stating that there were 27 members present representing 12 counties and there was a quorum. Dougherty and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Mr. Nagy asked for a motion that the December 2021 meeting minutes be approved. Elaine Mays motioned the minutes be accepted and John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mr. Nagy asked the Chairman of the 2022 Nominating Committee, Barbara Grogan, to address the Council about the Nominating Committee meeting that occurred earlier in the evening. Ms. Grogan presented the Council with the recommendations for the 2022 Executive Committee and Officer positions. They were as follows; Paul Nagy, Chairman; Anthony Jones, Vice Chairman; Donnie Baggett, Treasurer; and members of the Executive Committee; Brenda Peterson, Ben Hayward, Benny Flowers, Al Hutchins, Jr., John Spann, and Danny Palmer. Chairman Nagy asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor and Elaine Mays made a motion to close nominations. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed. Chairman Nagy stated that the nominations would be tabled until the February meeting and then there would be a vote.

Chairman Nagy asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to present the Planning Report. The Planning Department is developing a Redevelopment Fund Grant application for Colquitt. CHIP applications being submitted are Boston, Grady County/Cairo, Doerun, and Seminole County. CHIP applications are due by January 31. Fourteen applications were submitted for the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA). Eleven of those grants were for infrastructure and three were for broadband. The Broadband announcements are expected by January 31, 2022. The Planning Department has been working on Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans in the region. Those plans approved are Miller County, Baker County, and Thomas County. Calhoun County and Worth County's plans are under review. Mitchell County's plan has been approved and is pending adoption. Decatur County's plan is in progress. Grady County is a new contract that we will begin work on soon. The Strategic Plan, developed under the EDA CARES Planning Grant (\$400,000), is complete.

Director of Finance Traci Hall presented the Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2021, for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$21,300.91 bringing the ending fund balance to \$586,695.32. The FY22 unassigned fund balance per policy is \$365,652.97. The actual unassigned fund balance in excess of minimum is \$221, 042.35. The Revolving Loan Fund had a surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$3,362.61 bringing the ending fund balance to \$618,901.01. The Regional Transportation Fund had a deficit of \$29,626.64 bringing the ending fund balance to \$2,753,372.44. The Pension Trust Fund had a deficit of \$189,769.87 bringing the fund balance to \$881,302.86. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the November and December Financial Report included in the meeting packets. Elaine Mays made a motion to accept the November and December financial reports. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Angell proceeded to give the Executive Director's report. She welcomed the new council members and introduced each of them. The RLF CARES program has disbursed nine microloans totaling \$345,000 of the \$500,000 fund. This is 69% of the fund that has been utilized. Any funds not disbursed by June 30, 2022 will go back to EDA. The FY22 Work Program Summary of Projects was mailed out in the Council packets. A Grant Administrator was hired, and she will begin February 7<sup>th</sup>. We are assisting six local governments with redistricting maps/plans. After the discussion about the mental health crisis at December's council meeting, Mr. Michael Bryant, with Congressman Bishop's office, followed up with one of his colleagues about this situation in SWGA. They will be working to find a way to increase funding mental healthcare access to Southwest Georgia. We have had several staff members out with COVID. We are complying with CDC guidelines.

Chairman Nagy stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be February 24, 2022. The circumstances of the meeting will be determined based on COVID numbers closer to the meeting date. Paul Nagy adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

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Paul Nagy, Chairman

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Suzanne Angell, Executive Director