

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting
Camilla, Georgia
July 29, 2021

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, July 29, 2021, at the Camilla Chamber of Commerce "The Depot" in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Paul Nagy chaired the meeting and was present.

Present at the meeting, in-person, were John Spann, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Ferrell Ruis, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Billy Poppell, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyais, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Jr., Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Rozanne Braswell, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, Elaine Mays, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts but participating in the meeting via Zoom were Deidre Evans-Severson, Johnsie Handfield, Revonn Miller, LaFaye Copeland, Danny Palmer, and Tracie Beard.

Council members absent and calling to report conflicts were Chris Moore, Eddie Hopkins, Anthony Jones, Tammy McCrary, Joe Walden, Brenda Peterson, John McPhaul, and Rodney Prince.

Council members absent were Kregg Close, Kregg Freeman, Ernest Johnson, Jack Powell, Dice Roberts, and Christopher Wheeler.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Finance Director Scott Stephenson, Executive Assistant Heather White, and Receptionist/Assistant Harrison Edwards.

Guests attending the meeting were Mayor of Blakely Travis Wimbush, Kathryn Speight, Ellie Smith, and Wilder Smith.

Chairman Nagy called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m.

Chairman Nagy asked Executive Director Suzanne Angell to give the attendance report.

Mrs. Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 35 members in attendance representing 12 counties and a quorum was present. Calhoun, Colquitt, Early, Lee, Mitchell, and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Nagy asked for a motion that the June 24, 2021, meeting minutes to be approved. Al Hutchins, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Nagy asked for Norma Gilpatrick to give the Nominating Committee Report. Ms. Gilpatrick said that the Nominating Committee met before the Council Meeting to discuss a nominee to present to the full council to fill Glenda Battle's vacant position on the Executive Committee. She said after discussion, the Nominating Committee would like to recommend Mrs. Benny Flowers for the vacant seat. She asked if anyone had any other nominations from the floor for the position. No one offered any other nominations. Al Hutchins, Jr. made the motion to appoint Mrs. Benny Flowers to the Executive Committee. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion. All agreed.

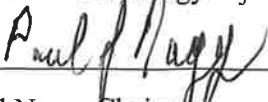
Chairman Nagy asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the Planning Report. Mrs. Reddick stated that everyone should have received the planning report in their council packets that were mailed out. She said that Planner, Kimberly Brooks has resigned. The Housing Preservation Grant was submitted on July 19th. We are working on a Redevelopment Fund Grant for the City of Colquitt. We received the Age-Friendly Grant from AARP (American Association of Retired People). Albany, Sylvester, Lee County and Thomasville will receive this grant. We are also working with Dougherty County and Feeding the Valley Food Bank on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV). This funding is being offered through DCA as part of the CARES funds. This project is for an expansion of the current food bank facility and the total project cost is approximately \$4 million. We are working with the City of Boston on a GICH (Georgia Initiative for Community Housing) application. We are working with the City of Sylvester on two broadband grants. We are still waiting on announcements for CDBGs. We are working on Hazard Mitigation Plans for several counties. We are working with the City of Camilla on a Rural Zone designation application. We are also working with the City of Leesburg on a Recreational Trails Grant.

Chairman Nagy asked Finance Director Scott Stephenson to present the financial report for the period ending June 30, 2021. The General Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$46,224.39, bringing the ending fund balance to \$566,859.23. The Revolving Loan Fund had an excess of \$8,525.90, bringing the ending fund balance to \$612,473.90. The Regional Transportation Fund had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$2,026,285.95, bringing the ending fund balance to \$2,345,260.74. The Regional Partner's Network has a deficit of \$85.00, bringing their fund balance to \$7,195.08. The Pension Trust Fund had a surplus of \$210,670.76, bringing the fund balance to \$1,071,072.73. Mr. Stephenson asked for any questions and all questions were answered. Executive Director Angell mentioned that she is always available for any questions people may have. Chairman Nagy asked for a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept the financial report. Nathaniel Keaton seconded the motion; all agreed.

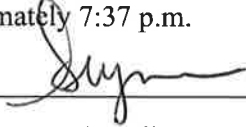
Suzanne Angell gave the Executive Director's report. She said that everyone received the report of approved Microloans in their packets. She said that Economic Developer Beka Shiver is about to start another marketing campaign for the CARES Revolving Loan Fund. So far \$305,000 has been loaned out of \$500,000 in funds that are available until June 30, 2022. There is an approved \$100,000 Legacy RLF loan that we are waiting on the applicant to close. We are still waiting for EDA (Economic Development Administration) to answer the request for defederalization of RLF funds. The Annual Work Program for FY21 and FY22 were included in the Council packets. The annual audit is about to commence. We are excited to work with Dougherty County and the Feeding the Valley Food Bank on the CDBG-CV grant. They have done many wonderful things to help people in our region, especially during COVID. Mrs. Angell introduced new staff member Harrison Edwards. She mentioned the GMA (Georgia Municipal Association) Convention to be held August 6-10 in Savannah. Also, the Georgia Association of Regional Commission Annual Conference at St. Simons Island is still scheduled for November 3-5.

Chairman Nagy stated in the spirit of social distancing the next council meeting will be held at the Camilla Depot/Chamber of Commerce in August. Box suppers will be served.

Chairman Paul Nagy adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:37 p.m.



Paul Nagy, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director