

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Thomasville, Georgia

June 30, 2022

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 30, 2022, at the Thomas County Emergency Operations Center in Thomasville, Georgia. Present was John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Bennie Flowers, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis,, Anthony Jones, Raymond Breaux, Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Jr., Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Chad Griffin, Dwight Hickman, Jason Scott, Carlos Williams, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Sondra Walker, Donnie Baggett, Al Bryan, Elaine Mays, Kemp Willis, Christopher Wheeler, and Melvin Harris.

Excused were Johnsie Handfield, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Billy Poppell, Dr. Charles Ochie, Sr., June Knight, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Tracie Beard, Doug Powell, and Rodney Prince.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Darryl Warren, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Jon Howard, Kregg Freeman, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Ernest Johnson, and Scott Chastain.

Guests present were Michael Bryant, Sanford Bishop's Office, Audrey Wheeler, Patrick Sellers, Queenie Grimes, Kathryn Speight, Thomas County Commissioner Zippy Vonier, Thomas County Clerk Celeste Tyler, Thomasville City Manager Allen Carson, Thomasville Assistant City Manager Chris White, Thomasville Assistant City Manager Sheryl Sealy, and Thomasville Times Enterprise Reporter Pat Donovan.

Staff members present were Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Finance Director Traci Hall, Executive Assistant Heather White, and Receptionist Harrison Edwards. Executive Director Suzanne Angell was absent due to COVID.

Chairman Paul Nagy called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 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.

Mr. Nagy asked for a motion that the May 2022 meeting minutes be approved. Dwight Hickman motioned the minutes be accepted and Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed except for Al Bryan, who abstained.

Chairman Nagy stated that the Executive Committee's recommendations of the FY23 Budget, the FY23 Target Fund Balance, and the FY23 Work Program had been tabled for 30 days and there needed to be a vote on each. Al Bryan made a motion to accept the FY23 Budget as presented. Anthony Jones seconded the motion; all agreed. Anthony Jones made a motion that the FY23 Target Fund Balance be accepted as presented. Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed. Elaine Mays made the motion to accept the FY23 Work Program as presented. Charlie Sol seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mr. Nagy invited Transportation Committee Chairman Raymond Breaux to address the Council. Mr. Breaux mentioned that it was time for the FY23 Transit Provider Contract Renewals. The Transportation Committee met before the Council Meeting and reviewed the onboard survey results for each provider (these results were provided to the Council). The Transportation Committee recommended renewing the Provider's contracts for FY23, which will be the final (5<sup>th</sup>) year of the contract award. A Request for Proposal for transportation services will be required for services beginning in FY24. Mr. Breaux asked for a vote from the Council. Charlie Sol made a motion to renew the Transit Provider contracts for FY23. Ferrell Ruis seconded the motion; all agreed.

Finance Director Traci Hall presented the Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2022, for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$145,494.16 bringing the ending

fund balance to \$710,888.57. The FY22 minimum unassigned fund balance per policy is \$365,652.97. The actual unassigned fund balance more than the minimum is \$345,235.60. The Revolving Loan Fund had a surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$5,856.70 bringing the ending fund balance to \$661,395.10. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$44,81.35 bringing the ending fund balance to \$2,827,880.43. The Pension Trust Fund had a deficit of \$256,839.53 bringing the fund balance to \$814,233.20. Mr. Nagy asked for a motion to accept the May 2022 Financial Report included in the meeting packets. Elaine Mays made a motion to accept the May 2022 Financial Reports. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Mrs. Reddick gave the Planning Report. She said that the Planning Report was included in the mailed Council packets. We heard about the appropriations request from Sanford Bishop's office. It has not been approved but everything is looking good. The amount that was submitted to help with the communications systems in several counties in the region was \$10 million. We may not get that amount; it may be more like \$4 million. Two CDBG grants have been submitted. Pre-hazard Mitigation Plans are going well. GEMA has complimented how good our plans are. We are still working with GDOT and the contractors on the Regional Transit Plan. Mrs. Reddick encouraged the Council to take the DOT survey if they have not already. The CEDS is still in process. The Radium Springs Trail project has been approved. We will be working with Sale City to update their zoning ordinances and their zoning map.

Mrs. Reddick presented the Executive Director's report in Executive Director Suzanne Angell's absence. SWGRC submitted three appropriations requests (CPF requests) to Congressman Sanford Bishop's office in April. We are excited to announce that one of those requests has been included in the FY23 appropriations bill, as passed by the subcommittee. It still must pass the full committee and if it does, it will then move to the US House. If passed by the House, the Senate and House will have to reconcile any differences in the bill before a final version is passed by the House and the Senate and then signed by the President. The funding request is for the purchase of upgraded Interoperable P25 Communications systems for our counties and cities' public safety and first responders. This equipment would replace the antiquated VHF communication systems that they currently have in place. The total funding request was for \$10 million but we have been recently informed that it will be dropped to around \$4 million. We have purchased a new software to help us organize and stay on top of projects better. It is still in the implementation phase, but it is a very user-friendly program. Staff member, Sheena Stephens has been working on a new, updated logo for SWGRC and SWG Regional Transit. A preview of the logo is being passed out. We also hope to announce a new website in the near future as our current website is difficult to navigate. Mrs. Reddick stated that she and Suzanne will be attending the Brownfield Conference in Oklahoma in August. We are continuing to work with GDOT and AECOM on the Regional Rural Transit Development Plan and have been providing information to them and having regular meetings. We have many repairs going on in our SWGRC buildings right now. We have rotting boards and still have a leaking roof in a few places during heavy rains. Copies of the Annual Performance Review forms were distributed to those who have not turned one in yet along with a pen. Heather will stay after the meeting so that you can have a last opportunity to fill yours out. We would like to have a Legislative Reception again as we have in years past. Mrs. Reddick presented the dates of September 29<sup>th</sup> or October 27<sup>th</sup> as prospective dates for a Legislative Reception. The majority of the Council were in favor of the October date, by show of hands. Mrs. Reddick mentioned that the Mrs. Angell's plan right now is to start the City/County Manager's meetings again in FY23. COVID had interrupted them. The GARC Annual Conference is scheduled for November 2-4 at the King & Prince at St. Simon's Island. Heather has many rooms blocked off. If you have an interest in attending this year let her know and she will put your name on a reservation.

Chairman Nagy stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be July 28, 2022, at the Camilla Chamber of Commerce venue. The meeting ended at approximately 7:35 p.m.

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Paul Nagy, Chairman

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Suzanne Angell, Executive Director