

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, GA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BALDWIN COUNTY

Johnny Westmoreland
Richard Mullins
Bill Millians
Matt Poyner

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Paul Chapman
Becky Smith
Charlie Westberry
Charles Cook
Robert Ray

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
George Slappey

JONES COUNTY

Jimmy Roberts
Francis Adams
Frank Duke

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Lonnie Miley

MONROE COUNTY

Dick Bazemore
Edd Norris
Melvin Lawrence

PEACH COUNTY

Barbara Williams
Alfredia Walker

PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall
Henry Cravey
Lee Slade
James Colson

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster
John Reid

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart
Johnny Branan
Joyce Mitchum

WILKINSON COUNTY

C.L. Brooks
Jonathan Jackson

GUESTS PRESENT

Andrew Blascovich – Office of Senator Johnny Isakson
Charlene Kipe – City of Jeffersonville
Bill Stembridge – Office of Senator Saxby Chambliss

STAFF PRESENT

Denise Brookins – Government Services Specialist
Daniel Cummings – Government Services Specialist
Sheknita Davis – Workforce Director
Kristi Harpst – Regional Planner
Nick Kouloungis – Technology Services Director
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director
Laura Mathis – Deputy Director
Allison Maxwell – Loan Processing/Servicing Specialist
Ralph Nix – Executive Director
Carol Payton – Secretary
Robert Smith – Government Services Specialist
Geri Ward – AAA Director

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Charlie Westberry called the April 2014 meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Executive Secretary Carol Payton called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present with 20 voting and 12 non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation

Crawford County Council member Paul Chapman gave the invocation.

b. Welcome

Chairman Westberry welcomed everyone to the April meeting.

c. Introduction of Guests

Mayor Shannon Hart of Jeffersonville introduced Charlene Kipe.

REPORT FROM PENSION COMMITTEE

John Reid reported that the following members of the Pension Committee met earlier:

John Reid – Council Member
Ralph Nix – Executive Director
Chrissy Fuller – MGRC Staff Member/Committee Secretary
Chan Layson – MGRC Staff Member
Nicole Gaither – MGRC Staff Member

The meeting was called to order for the purpose of reviewing retirement requests of two staff members: Sharon Dawson and Sandi Glore.

Sharon Dawson is eligible for retirement with seven years, and two months of service and requesting a retirement date of April 15, 2014. Ms. Glore is eligible for retirement with 41 years and 11 months of service, and she is requesting a retirement date of May 31, 2014. The Committee is recommending the approval of these two requests.

Chair Westberry said since this is a recommendation of the Committee, no second is required. Motion was adopted unanimously.

- a. Adoption of Resolution Honoring MGRC Staff Member Sharon Dawson upon Her Retirement

With the approval of the retirement request of Sharon Dawson, the following Resolution No. RC-14-08 is being offered for consideration:

* * * * *

WHEREAS, Sharon C. Dawson has dedicated her career, spanning over four decades of professional service, to helping the most vulnerable in the community to include the aging, homeless, and disabled populations; and

WHEREAS, she has worked tirelessly for these groups through a variety of positions in both the public and private sectors, with each one progressing in scope, responsibility, and impact to her service constituency; and

WHEREAS, during this time she has developed subject matter expertise in the areas of human services, fiscal oversight, grants management, programmatic compliance, and related public administration services; and

WHEREAS, since February 2, 2007, she has worked for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission as an integral member of the senior management of the Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging; and

WHEREAS, in that capacity, she has demonstrated an exemplary work record through the quality of her work and has earned the highest levels of respect from MGRC cohorts and leadership, all while serving as a strong and influential mentor to younger and subordinate staff; and

WHEREAS, her commitment and dedication to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has helped to establish a reputation of excellence for the Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging throughout the State of Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council and staff do recognize and acknowledge Sharon Dawson's achievements; and thank her for her service to the citizens of Middle Georgia; and wish her a long, full, and happy retirement.

* * * * *

The preceding resolution was unanimously approved on a motion by Lee Slade and seconded by Dick Bazemore.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2014 Council Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the March 13, 2014 Council meeting, and they were unanimously approved on a motion by John Reid and seconded by Butch Hall.

- b. Old Business

None to report.

- c. New Business

- 1. Local Assistance Requests

MGRC staff member Daniel Cummings presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the March meeting:

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Community: Baldwin County
Project Title: Consolidation Assessment
Project Description: Assessment of consolidating 911 and dispatch functions.

Community: City of Eatonton
Project Title: Recruitment of City Administrator
Project Description: Assist the City with recruitment of City Administrator.

Community: City of Hawkinsville
Project Title: 2014 Fox Theatre Institute Preservation Grant
Project Description: Prepare grant application for maintenance and renovation of the Opera House.

Community: Macon-Bibb County
Project Title: Ruth Hartley Mosley Women’s Center Renovation
Project Description: Research funding sources for renovations to the Ruth Hartley Mosley Women’s Center.

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There were no comments concerning the local assistance requests, and they were unanimously approved on a motion by Shannon Hart and seconded by Paul Chapman.

2. Resolution of Certification that the Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund is being operated according to Policies and Procedures

Allison Maxwell noted that the MGRC administers a grant from the Economic Development Administration which was used to establish a revolving loan fund program. Semi-annual reports must be filed, and there is a requirement by EDA that this Council must submit a certification that the RLF is still in compliance with the Plan that was developed for operation of the RLF. The Plan requires that:

- Funds will be loaned only in the 11-county service area;
- Borrower is required to contribute ten percent of the total project cost;
- MGRC will not lend more than one-third of the total project cost; and
- Interest rate for the EDA RLF loan will not exceed prime +4.

Ms. Maxwell said the MGRC staff is submitting the following Resolution No. RC-14-09 for the Council’s consideration:

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission met on April 10, 2014 in Macon, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund, Project No. 04-39-03867, for the six months ending March 31, 2014, is consistent with and supportive of the area’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and the Revolving Loan Fund is being operated in accordance with the policies and procedures

contained in the Revolving Loan Fund Plan, and the loan portfolio meets the standard contained therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and determined that this Council hereby certifies to this determination.

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Richard Mullins made a motion that the resolution be approved. The motion was seconded by Billy Webster and unanimously approved.

3. Resolution to Post Middle Georgia Workforce Plan for Area 10 for Public Comment

Sheknita Davis reported the resolution that is included in the packet authorizes the staff to post the Middle Georgia Workforce Plan for public comment. The Workforce Investment Act requires that each local Workforce Investment Board develop and submit to the Governor's Office of Workforce Development a comprehensive five-year local plan which is consistent with the State plan and local regional needs. A Strategic Planning Committee was appointed to work on this effort.

Included with the resolution were key points of the plan, which is also posted on the MGRC website (middlegeorgiarc.org). She briefly discussed the vision and goals, strategic goals, and key strategies.

The following Resolution No. RC-14-10 was presented for the Council's consideration:

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 created state workforce investment boards to assist the Governor with the development of the State Workforce Plan and to review the local plan from the designated workforce areas; and

WHEREAS, Macon - Bibb County has been designated as Workforce Investment Area 10 governed by the local Workforce Investment Board to set policy for the Macon-Bibb County portion of the statewide workforce investment system and as of July 1, 2013, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission is the fiscal agent and sub-grantee for Workforce Investment Area 10; and

WHEREAS, each local Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with the appropriate chief elected official, is required to develop and submit to the Governor a comprehensive five-year local plan, which is consistent with the State plan; and

WHEREAS, the local Workforce Investment Board is required to make available copies of a proposed local plan to the public and allow members of the local board and members of the public, including representatives of business and representatives of labor organizations, to

submit comments on the proposed Plan to the local board, no later than a period of 30 days beginning on the date on which the proposed Plan is made available; and

WHEREAS, the Macon-Bibb County Workforce Investment Board, in conjunction with the staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, has prepared a draft Local Plan for 2013-2018, which is consistent with the State Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission concurs with the Macon-Bibb County Workforce Investment Board in the publication of the Middle Georgia Workforce Plan for WIA 10 in accordance with Public Law 105-220 sec. 118 (c) for public comment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon conclusion of the comment period, the Macon-Bibb County Workforce Investment Board will adopt the final Middle Georgia Workforce Plan for WIA 10 and present it to the Regional Commission Council for transmittal to the Chief Elected Official and the State of Georgia.

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Robert Reichert made a motion that the preceding resolution be approved. The motion was seconded by Billy Webster and unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Charlie Westberry announced that the Council has received notification from Bob McMahon, Middle Georgia Representative by the Lieutenant Governor's office, that he is officially resigning from the Council effective May 1. He is also stepping down as Executive Director of the 21st Century Partnership. The Council wishes him well in his future endeavors.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the April meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.