

## MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission  
Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m.  
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, GA

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

#### BALDWIN COUNTY

Johnny Westmoreland  
Richard Mullins  
Bill Millians  
Denese Shinholster  
Matt Poyner

#### MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Bert Bivins

#### CRAWFORD COUNTY

Paul Chapman  
Becky Smith  
Charlie Westberry  
Charles Cook

#### HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley  
George Slappey  
Grady Clemons

#### JONES COUNTY

Stephen Tingen  
Francis Adams  
Frank Duke

#### MONROE COUNTY

Edd Norris  
Melvin Lawrence

#### PEACH COUNTY

Melvin Walker  
Barbara Williams  
Alfredia Walker  
James Richardson

#### PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall  
Henry Cravey  
Lee Slade  
Nicky Cabero  
James Colson

#### PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster  
John Reid  
Terry Schwindler

#### TWIGGS COUNTY

Ken Fowler  
Shannon Hart  
Johnny Branan  
Joyce Mitchum

#### WILKINSON COUNTY

Dennis Holder  
Jonathan Jackson

#### MIDDLE GEORGIA

Charles Sims

## **Middle Georgia Regional Commission**

January 9, 2014

Page Two

### GUESTS PRESENT

Andrew Blascovich – Office of Senator Johnny Isakson  
Patti Bentley – State Representative, District 139  
Jimmy Faircloth – Mayor, City of Perry  
Barton Lowery – Office of Senator Johnny Isakson  
Bill Stembridge – Office of Congressman Saxby Chambliss

### STAFF PRESENT

Denise Brookins – Government Services Specialist  
Daniel Cummings – Government Services Specialist  
Sheknita Davis – Workforce Director  
Kristi Harpst – Regional Planner  
Penny Hunter – Finance  
James Johnson – Career Development Facilitator  
Nick Kouloungis – I.T. Director  
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director  
Chan Layson – Director of Business Development  
Laura Mathis – Deputy Director  
Ralph Nix – Executive Director  
Carol Payton – Secretary  
Howard Scott – One Stop Coordinator  
Robert Smith – Government Services Specialist  
Linnea Vance – Government Services Specialist  
Geri Ward – AAA Director  
Lisa Yazzie – WD Program Assistant

### CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman John Reid called the January 2014 meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Executive Secretary Carol Payton called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present with 24 voting and 13 non-voting members present.

### OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation

Wilkinson County Council member Jonathan Jackson gave the invocation.

**Middle Georgia Regional Commission**

January 9, 2014

Page Three

b. Welcome

Chairman John Reid welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2014.

c. Introduction of New Members and Guests

The following new Council members were recognized:

Bert Bivins  
Macon-Bibb County Commissioner  
Macon-Bibb County Municipal Member

Stephen Tingen  
Mayor of Gray  
Jones County Municipal Member

Barbara Williams  
Mayor of Fort Valley  
Peach County Municipal Member

Terry Schwindler  
Putnam County Non-Public Member

Johnny Branan  
Twiggs County Non-public Member

Charles Sims  
Appointment by Governor  
Representing Middle Georgia

The following guests were recognized:

Barton Lowery  
Senator Johnny Isakson's Office

Patti Bentley  
State Representative, District 139

Jimmy Faircloth  
Mayor of Perry

## **Middle Georgia Regional Commission**

January 9, 2014

Page Four

### REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee Chair John Harley gave the report for the Nominating Committee.

a. Election of Officers

Committee Chair Harley said the Committee met prior to the Council meeting to select names for discussion and consideration for the slate of Officers for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and the Executive Committee for 2014. Mayor Harley recognized the following members of the Nominating Committee and thanked them for serving:

Melvin Walker – County Member  
Robert Reichert – Municipal Member  
George Slappey – Non-public Member  
Grady Clemonts – Associate Member

Chairman Harley said there are certain criteria that must be met when choosing names for consideration:

- The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary serve on the Executive Committee by virtue of the office held and occupy three of the fourteen slots.
- By-laws require that each county has a representative on the Executive Committee.
- City, county, and private sector interests should be represented and balanced.

Mayor Harley said the Nominating Committee places the following names in nomination for Officers for a two-year term:

Charlie Westberry – Chair  
Butch Hall – Vice Chair  
Robert Reichert – Secretary  
Dick Bazemore – Treasurer

Council Chairman John Reid asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There being none, Henry Cravey made a motion that the nomination for Council Officers be closed and accepted. The motion was seconded by Lee Slade and unanimously approved.

The Nominating Committee places the following names in nomination for the Executive Committee for a two-year term:

## Middle Georgia Regional Commission

January 9, 2014

Page Five

Bill Millians – Baldwin County  
Chuck O’Neal – Macon-Bibb County  
Becky Smith – Crawford County  
George Slappey – Houston County  
Preston Hawkins – Jones County  
Dick Bazemore – Monroe County  
Melvin Walker – Peach County  
Lee Slade – Pulaski County  
Billy Webster – Putnam County  
Shannon Hart – Twiggs County  
Dennis Holder – Wilkinson County  
Bob McMahon – Middle Georgia

The Council Chair asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There being none, Butch Hall made a motion that the nomination for Executive Committee be closed and accepted. The motion was seconded by Dennis Holder and unanimously approved.

### STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Old Business

None to report.

b. New Business

i. Resolution Regarding Aging Services and Creation of an Aging Committee

Geri Ward, AAA Director, referred to the resolution that was included in everyone’s packet. The MGRC has served as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) since 1977. Each AAA received a letter from the Division of Aging Services Director requesting that all AAAs indicate the level of aging services that each would like to provide in FY 2015 and beyond. In addition, a Bylaws Amendment may be considered at the February meeting, which will create a Standing Committee to provide policy oversight, guidance, and recommendations to staff and Council. It is recommended that the Aging Committee consist of one Council member from each County to be appointed by the Chair. The following Resolution No. RC-14-01 determines that the Middle Georgia AAA intends to serve as a full service Area Agency on Aging and directs staff to prepare a bylaws amendment for consideration at the February meeting with regards to a Standing Committee:

\* \* \* \* \*

**Middle Georgia Regional Commission**

January 9, 2014

Page Six

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (RC) has served as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) since 1977; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia RC has provided program planning and development, technical assistance, coordination, administration, and fiscal accountability for program services to older citizens of Middle Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the services provided through subcontracts administered by the Area Agency on Aging have directly or indirectly benefited a large portion of the Middle Georgia population; and

WHEREAS, the work program and services of the Area Agency on Aging are reviewed and approved annually by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council prior to implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services has requested that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and all Area Agencies on Aging indicate the level of aging services that each would like to provide in FY 2015 and beyond as outlined in a letter from the Division of Aging Services Director dated January 7, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, by adoption of this resolution, does hereby determine that the Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging intends to serve as a **Full Service Area Agency on Aging**, as outlined in the January 7, 2014 letter from the Division of Aging, providing all statewide services, not a selection of services and may be required to deliver services outside of its traditional planning and service area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission directs staff to prepare a Bylaws Amendment for consideration at the February 13, 2014 meeting to create a Standing Committee to provide policy oversight, guidance, and recommendations to staff and Council. The Aging Committee shall consist of one Council member from each County to be appointed by the Chair.

\* \* \* \* \*

The preceding Resolution was unanimously approved on a motion by Henry Cravey and seconded by Ken Fowler.

ii. Local Assistance Requests

MGRC staff member Daniel Cummings presented the following Local Assistance Requests that have been received since the November meeting:

**Middle Georgia Regional Commission**

January 9, 2014

Page Seven

\* \* \* \* \*

**Community: Baldwin County**

Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Project Description: Prepare Assistance to Firefighters Grant application.

**Community: City of Forsyth**

Project Title: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Project Description: Prepare CDBG application for upgrade to parts of water/sewer system.

**Community: City of Forsyth**

Project Title: Consolidation Study

Project Description: Prepare Consolidation Study between the City of Forsyth and Monroe County.

**Community: Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber**

Project Title: Consolidation

Project Description: Assist the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Chamber with consolidation efforts.

**Community: Jones County**

Project Title: Urban Redevelopment Plan

Project Description: Prepare Urban Redevelopment Plan.

**Community: City of Milledgeville**

Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Project Description: Prepare Assistance to Firefighters Grant application.

**Community: Monroe County**

Project Title: Consolidation Study

Project Description: Prepare Consolidation Study between the City of Forsyth and Monroe County.

**Community: City of Perry**

Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Project Description: Prepare Assistance to Firefighters Grant application.

**Community: Pulaski County**

Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Project Description: Prepare Assistance to Firefighters Grant application.

**Community: Putnam County**

Project Title: Website

Project Description: Develop and implement website for Putnam Development Authority.

## **Middle Georgia Regional Commission**

January 9, 2014

Page Eight

\* \* \* \* \*

There were no questions or changes to the Local Assistance Requests, and they were unanimously approved on a motion by Lee Slade and seconded by Shannon Hart.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

#### a. Special Presentations

Chairman Reid recognized the following Council members who were going off the Council and had a token of appreciation for their service to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission:

Sam Hart – 5 years  
Cloyce Pittman – 10 years  
Larry Reese – 9 years  
Judy Sherling – 5 years  
John Stumbo – 14 years  
Neil Suggs – 5 years  
Gus Wilson – 4 years

\* \* \* \* \*

Vice Chair Charlie Westberry asked if he could make a special presentation. He presented a plaque to outgoing Council Chair, John Reid, for his service as Chair of the Commission for the past two years.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Proposed Budget Amendment #2 to the FY 2014 Budget to be presented at the February 13, 2014 Council meeting.
- b. Proposed Bylaws Amendment to be presented at the February 13, 2014 Council meeting.
- c. Council member orientation to be held on February 13, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the January Council meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.