

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BALDWIN COUNTY

Richard Mullins
Bill Millians
Denese Shinholster

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Paul Chapman
Becky Smith
Charlie Westberry
Robert Ray

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
Clifford Holmes

JONES COUNTY

Preston Hawkins
Stephen Tingen
Jimmy Roberts
Francis Adams
Frank Duke

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Chuck O'Neal

MONROE COUNTY

Mike Bilderback
Dick Bazemore

PEACH COUNTY

Melvin Walker
Barbara Williams
Alfredia Walker
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall
Henry Cravey
Lee Slade
Nicky Cabero

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster
John Reid

TWIGGS COUNTY

Ken Fowler
Shannon Hart
Johnny Branan
Joyce Mitchum

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GUESTS PRESENT:

Rebecca Lee – Vice President, Economic Development for Central Georgia Technical College

STAFF PRESENT:

Annie Barnes - Government Services Specialist

Greg Boike – Government Services Specialist

Delores Britt – Loan Processing Specialist

Kevin Brown – Attorney

Renee Bumpus – Business Service/Job Placement Specialist

Jonathon Connell – Government Services Specialist

Sheknita Davis – Workforce Development_Director

Crystal Gaillard – Government Services Specialist

James Johnson – Senior Career Development Facilitator

Laura Mathis – Deputy Director

Ralph Nix – Executive Director

Emily Perry - Career Development Facilitator

Gwen Presley – Office Secretary

Kim Stanton – Executive Secretary

Karen Thompson –Director of Business Development

Cam Yearty - Government Services Specialist

Lisa Yazzie – Workforce Development Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Charlie Westberry called the January 8, 2015 meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Executive Secretary Kim Stanton called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present with 24 voting and eight non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation

Crawford County member Paul Chapman gave the invocation.

b. Welcome

Chairman Westberry welcomed everyone to the January meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members and Guests

Chairman Westberry acknowledged the following guests to the Regional Commission Council Meeting: Rebecca Lee, Shelly Berryhill and Wesley Griffin.

d. Introduction of New Staff

Chairman Westberry stated that several new staff were in attendance at the meeting. He recognized:

ADMINISTRATION

Gwen Presley
Kim Stanton

GEORGIA SMALL BUSINESS LENDER

Delores Britt
Karen Thompson

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Annie Barnes
Cam Yearty

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Renee Bumpus
Emily Perry

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Peach County Commission Chair Melvin Walker introduced Rebecca Lee who manages business and industry training and retraining needs in a seven-county service delivery area utilizing a variety of classroom and lab settings on and off campus. Ms. Lee currently serves as Vice President, Economic Development for Central Georgia Technical College.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Lee, Vice-President of Economic Development, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. She took a few moments to go over some noteworthy facts about Central Georgia Technical College and the programs being offered.

Ms. Lee mentioned that Central Georgia Technical College is one of the largest two-year colleges in the area, serving over 35,000 individuals through Credit Programs, Adult Education and Economic Development. The program manages continuing education programs and include a variety of personal, technical, and professional development opportunities. The college serves as a multipurpose building ensuring facilities, equipment, and resources that are state of the art.

Ms. Lee announced a new approach to instruction which the College is implementing called the Blend Flex Program. This program enables students who have personal or family issues and cannot physically attend classes, attend classes remotely using either non-traditional classes, video instructed classes or by obtaining a video tape of the instructor-led class.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2014 Annual Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the November 13, 2014 annual meeting and they were unanimously approved on a motion by Lee Slade and second by John Harley.

b. Old Business

None to report.

c. New Business

1. Report on Council Appointees for 2015

Chairman Westberry reported that the following appointments to the Middle Georgia RC Council had been received since the November meeting:

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Paul Chapman – County Member
Becky Smith – Municipal Member
Charlie Westberry – Non –Public Member
Charles Cook – Associate Member
Robert Ray – Associate Member

PEACH COUNTY

Melvin Walker - County Member
Barbara Williams - Municipal Member
Alfredia Walker - Non –Public Member
James Richardson - Associate Member
James Khoury - Associate Member

The Council Member Appointment were unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and second by Preston Hawkins.

2. Local Assistance Requests

MGRC staff member Greg Boike presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the November meeting:

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Community: Baldwin County
Project Title: Information Technology Assessment
Project Description: Development of a Strategic Plan for the County's Information Technology System.

Community: City of Byron
Project Title: Tourism Comprehensive Plan
Project Description: Development of a Tourism Comprehensive Plan to assist the city in attracting Tourists.

Community: City of Byron
Project Title: PlanFirst
Project Description: Assist the city with the development of a PlanFirst application.

Community: City of Centerville
Project Title: Job Description
Project Description: Assistance in developing job description for potential Economic Development/ Planning staff member.

Community: City of Eatonton
Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Project Description: Preparation of an application for FY 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Community: City of Gray
Project Title: CDBG Grant Application
Project Description: Preparation of an FY 2015 CDBG application for sewer system improvements.

Community: City of Gray
Project Title: Development Review
Project Description: Review of current annexation rules and guidelines and current development fees.

Community: City of Hawkinsville
Project Title: Historic Preservation Grant
Project Description: Preparation of grant applications for the rehabilitation of windows and doors to the Opera House.

- Community:** City of Irwinton
Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Project Description: Preparation of an application for FY 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
- Community:** City of Irwinton
Project Title: USDA Community Facilities Grant
Project Description: Assistance in applying for United States Department of Agriculture Grant for the purchase of a police vehicle.
- Community:** City of Ivey
Project Title: CDBG application
Project Description: Preparation of an FY 2015 CDBG application for water system improvements.
- Community:** City of Jeffersonville
Project Title: Jeffersonville City Ordinances
Project Description: Review and Revision of the Jeffersonville City Code of Ordinances.
- Community:** Jones County
Project Title: US Soccer Grant
Project Description: Assistance with US Soccer Foundation Grant.
- Community:** Macon-Bibb County
Project Title: Brownfield Application
Project Description: Preparation and submitting Brownfield Application.
- Community:** Macon-Bibb County
Project Title: Solid Waste Plan
Project Description: Assistance in the development of a Solid Waste Plan in partnership with a consultant hired by the county.
- Community:** City of Milledgeville
Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Project Description: Preparation of an application for FY 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
- Community:** Peach County
Project Title: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Project Description: Preparation of an application for FY 2014 Assistance to Firefighter Grant
- Community:** City of Perry
Project Title: Wayfinding Plan
Project Description: Development of a Wayfinding Plan for the city.
- Community:** Putnam County
Project Title: Recreation Equipment
Project Description: Research potential grants for recreation expenditures and construction of rehabilitation facilities.

Requestor: State Senator District 26 and State Representative 144
Project Title: Charter Revisions
Project Description: Assistance to the Legislative Delegation update with draft revisions to the preparation of the City of Gordon Charter.

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The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Richard Mullins and second by Shannon Hart.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Disclosure Report per OCGA 50-8-63

Chairman Westberry stated each year, Regional Commission staff are required to disclose any business transactions with local governments and report to the full Council. This year, Selentria Kendrick engaged in a business activity with a government member which was approved in advance by Ralph Nix. No action is required by the Council.

b. Appointments to the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee

Chairman Westberry stated that there were two vacancies on the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee due to retirements. He stated that he has appointed Paul Chapman and Dick Bazemore to fill the vacancies and that no action is required by the Council.

c. Workforce Update

Workforce Development Director Sheknita Davis reported that for 2014 fiscal and program year 2014 the Workforce Development Program exceeded seven of the nine Federal Performance Measures and met the remaining two performance measures. This success qualifies the Regional Commission to apply for a Performance Incentive Grant. Regional Commission Staff will work with the Workforce Investment Board to develop the application. Middle Georgia Regional Commission is one of fourteen workforce areas, of the nineteen, that is eligible to apply for this grant.

d. Report on the Regional Leadership Champions Program

Deputy Director Laura Mathis reported that the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions Program that was previously approved by the Council is kicking off with a two-day retreat at Lake Blackshear on January 9, 2015. Ms. Mathis reported that the Regional Commission has partnered with Fanning Leadership Institute of the University of Georgia to design and implement the one-of-a-kind program. This is one of the projects funded by the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment. The inaugural class includes forty-two participants from across the middle

Georgia region. Ms. Mathis reported that there will be seven sessions over the next eight months designed to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders from across Middle Georgia to develop enhanced leadership capacity within the region and actively engage in the creation of a future vision for Middle Georgia's growth.

e. Building Renovations

Executive Director Ralph Nix reported the renovations at the Regional Commission building will begin January 20 in three phases. The project will include the expansion of the offices in to the former Bibb County record storage space and renovations to the current space. During construction, there may be times when conference rooms are not available for meetings but staff will do everything possible to minimize those instances. Mr. Nix thanked Macon-Bibb County, who owns the building for providing funds for renovations.

OTHER BUSINESS

None to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. There will be a Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee meeting in February to consider Budget Amendment #2.

b. The Georgia Municipal Association Mayor's Day Conference is in Atlanta, January 23-26, 2015.

c. The Association County Commissioners of Georgia will have the 6th District Day at the Capital on February 25, 2015.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business, the January council meeting was adjourned until February 12, 2015.