

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BALDWIN COUNTY

John Westmoreland
Richard Mullins, Jr.
William Millians
Denese Shinholster

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charlie Westberry

HOUSTON COUNTY

Clifford Holmes
John Harley
George Slappey

JONES COUNTY

Preston Hawkins
Jimmy Roberts
Francis Adams
Frank Duke

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Chuck O'Neal
Lonnie Miley

MONROE COUNTY

Melvin Lawrence
Dick Bazemore
Edd Norris

PEACH COUNTY

Melvin Walker
Barbara Williams
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall
Henry Cravey
Lee Slade
James Colson

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster
John Reid
Terry Schwindler

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart
Johnny Branan
Joyce Mitchum

WILKINSON COUNTY

Jonathan Jackson
Charles Brack
Marty Dominy
C. L. Brooks

MIDDLE GEORGIA

Hill Bentley

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Ralph Nix – Executive Director
Laura Mathis – Deputy Director
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director
Matt Garvin - Finance Director
Sheknita Davis – Workforce Development Director
Julie Hall – AAA Director
Nick Kouloungis, Technology Services Director
Daniel Cummings – Sr. Government Services Specialist
Sam Perren - Government Services Specialist
Crystal Gaillard - Government Services Specialist
Annie Barnes - Government Services Specialist
Greg Boike – Government Services Specialist
Cam Yearty - Government Services Specialist
Kevin Brown – Attorney
Kim Stanton – Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Charlie Westberry called the June 11, 2015 meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Executive Secretary Kim Stanton called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present with 23 voting and 13 non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation

Macon-Bibb County Council Member Mayor Robert Reichert gave the invocation.

b. Welcome

Chairman Westberry welcomed everyone to the June 11, 2015 Council meeting.

c. Introduction of Guests/New Staff

Laura Mathis introduced a new staff member, Sam Perren, Government Services Specialist to the Regional Commission.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2015 Council Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the May 14, 2015 Council meeting and they were unanimously approved on a motion by John Reid and second by C. L. Brooks.

b. New Business

i. Recommendation from Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee Regarding FY 2015 Budget

Amendment #3 to FY 2015 Budget and Work Program

Butch Hall reported that the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee met on June 2, 2015. Mr. Hall wanted to thank the committee members who attended: Frank Duke, Dick Bazemore, George Slappey, Paul Chapman, Bert Bivins and Charlie Westberry. First is a recommendation from the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee regarding the proposed Amendment #3 to FY 2015 Budget and Work Program.

Mr. Hall noted that this is the final budget amendment for 2015, which reflects an increase of \$356,537; an increase of 2.8 percent. Local revenues are reduced by \$33,024, with the largest decrease coming from changes resulting from contract amendments. One particular item of note is the addition of the EDA Revolving Loan revenues to the budget, which is a reclassification of this program. State revenues are reduced by \$80,263, primarily due to the reclassification of Aging revenue from state to pass-through. Federal revenue is reduced by \$257,586 due to changes in funding for Aging, Workforce Development, and the OEA grant. Pass-through revenues are increased by \$727,410 to reflect adjustments to Aging sub-contractor and Coordinated Transportation programs.

For expenditures, individual line items are being adjusted to align with actual expenditure projections. There are two capital items in the amount of \$28,600 for the purchase of a new vehicle and record retention software for GSBL. Expenses associated with the EDA Revolving Loan program have also been added to the budget in the amount of \$80,038. As a result of the line item adjustments, the proposed budget amendment allocates \$286,336 for unrestricted reserves and \$56,082 for restricted reserves.

The Committee also reviewed the 2015 Work Program and recommends an amendment to include the Geographic Information Officer program through the state association.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to adopt Amendment #3 to the FY 2015 Budget and the final amendment to the Work Program. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2015 Budget Amendment #3 and Final Work Program.

ii. Recommendation of the Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee Regarding FY 2016 Budget

1. Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2016

Mr. Hall reported that as has been the practice for the past several years, Council establishes the mileage reimbursement rate for each fiscal year based on the most recent federal rates. The Committee recommends that the Mileage Reimbursement Rate increase from 56 cent to 57.5 cent for FY 2016.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to approve the mileage reimburse rate at 57.5 cents for FY 2016. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Mileage Reimbursement Rate.

2. FY 2016 Budget

Mr. Hall reported that the FY 2016 Budget is \$11,890,187 - a 16.5 percent decrease over 2015 as amended. It is a balanced budget that anticipates funds available for the fund balance.

For local revenues, there are a number of new projects which are highlighted in your package, and there are several projects that do not continue in 2016. The net change for local revenues is an increase of \$31,251. Please note that local government dues are increased by \$48,415. As instructed by the Council, the dues increase is being implemented in accordance with the local governments' 2016 fiscal year. Also, new to the FY 2016 Budget is the addition of the revenues associated with the EDA Revolving Loan Fund of \$129,000.

For state revenues, there is an increase of \$132,275, with the largest increase coming from the initial planning allocations for Aging and a contract with EPD.

Federal revenues reflect a decrease of \$192,500. This net change is the result of initial planning allocations for Aging and the completion of several GTA digital economy plan programs in 2015.

Pass-through revenues are reduced by \$1,269,273 due to the initial planning allocation of Aging funds for service providers, the preliminary Coordinated Transportation funding, and the completion of the GTA digital economy plans.

On the expenditure side, to highlight a number of the individual line items, the budget includes:

- Merit increases and a cost of living adjustment.
- Employee benefits include retaining Humana as the healthcare provider and adding Flexcare as a voluntary benefit.
- Operation of the Wellness Program.
- A capital outlay of \$5,000 for data backup equipment.

The Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee, along with staff, will monitor and review the budget on a regular and periodic basis. There are several pending opportunities for funding that are not yet finalized, which are not included in the budget. As amendments are required, they will be presented for consideration by the Council.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to approve the FY 2016 Budget. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016 Budget.

3. FY 2016 Initial Work Program

Mr. Hall reported that the Committee reviewed and approved the Initial Work Program for 2016, which outlines the initiatives and projects the staff will undertake on behalf of local governments during 2016.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to approve the Initial Work Program. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016 Initial Work Program.

iii. Recommendation of the Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee Regarding Policy Amendments

1. Amendments to Office Policies Manual

Mr. Hall reported that the Committee reviewed and approved two policy amendments and one policy addition. Each will be presented for separate action by the Council.

First, the Office Policies Manual is proposed to be amended to reflect the current operating practices of the Regional Commission as well as address several items that were highlighted by the recent Department of Audits review.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to approve the amendments to the Office Policies Manual to be effective June 12, 2015. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Office Policies Manual.

2. Amendments to Personnel Policy

The Committee considered and approved amendments to Section 9 of Article V-Substance Abuse Policy and Section 2 of Article IX-Employee Benefits. The amendments were discussed.

Committee Chair Butch Hall recommends the approval of the amendments to Section 9 of Article V and Section 2 of Article IX of the Personnel Policy to be effective June 12, 2015. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Amendments to Personnel Policy.

3. Adoption of Purchasing Card Policy

The Committee also reviewed and considered a new policy governing the use of purchasing cards. This policy addresses how cards are issued, card holder responsibilities, and prohibited uses. It was recently mentioned by the Department of Audits during its review.

Committee Chair Butch Hall recommends the adoption of the Purchasing Card Policy to be effective June 12, 2015. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Purchasing Card Policy.

iv. Recommendation of the Budget, Audit, and Personnel Committee Regarding Performance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

1. Determination of Performance of Middle Georgia Regional Commission

The Committee reviewed the five performance standards established in 1993 and determined that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission met the Performance Standards for 2015.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to determine the satisfactory performance of the Regional Commission for FY 2015. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Performance of Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

2. Performance Review of Executive Director

The last order of business for the Committee was to review the performance of the Executive Director. It was determined that the Executive Director met or exceeded his performance measures; therefore, the Committee recommends a merit increase for the Executive Director effective July 1, 2015.

Committee Chair Butch Hall made a motion to approve the performance of the Executive Director and the merit increase. Because this is a recommendation from the Committee, no second is required for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Performance Review of Executive Director.

v. Local Assistance Requests

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

Community: Baldwin County
Project Title: Strategic Plan
Project Description: Assistance in updating the Fire Department Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Community: Baldwin County
Project Title: Strategic Plan
Project Description: Assistance in facilitating a Strategic Planning Session for the Board of Commissioners.

Community: Baldwin County
Project Title: Updating County's Personnel Policies
Project Description: Assistance in updating the County's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.

Community: City of Byron
Project Title: Georgia Humanities Grant
Project Description: Preparation for the release of the self-guided tour brochure.

Community: City of Byron
Project Title: Byron Main Street Competition
Project Description: Assistance with showcase of drug store in the historic district for "Why This Place Matters" competition.

Community: Peach County
Project Title: Job Search
Project Description: Assistance with the hiring and selection of a Peach County Development Authority Executive Director.

Community: Wilkinson County
Project Title: Body Worn Camera Grant
Project Description: Assistance with writing a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Body Worn Camera Grant.

Mr. Cummings also reported on several projects which were previously approved and have been completed. These projects included:

- Macon-Bibb County was awarded an EPA Brownfields grant.
- Middle Georgia's Area Agency on Aging was ranked first in the state in nursing home transitions.

- Technology services finalized a website, was awarded a website contract, and will be developing a website for the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority.
- GSBL either funded or closed three loans with over \$1 million in SBA 504 loan funding and contributed to creating 19 jobs.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and second by John Reid.

vi. Resolution Adopting the Middle Georgia Regional Work Program

Daniel Cummings reported that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires every Regional Commission in the state to conduct an annual update of its Regional Work Program. Georgia Department of Community Affairs has reviewed it and found it to meet all of the measured requirements.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires every Regional Commission in the state to conduct an annual update of its Regional Work Program; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has completed the update of the Middle Georgia Regional Work Program in accordance with the rules and procedures provided by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for Regional Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has found it to be in compliance with all requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on the 11th day of June 2015, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council, meeting in regular session, does hereby adopt the annual update of the Middle Georgia Regional Work Program.

The Resolution to adopt the Middle Georgia Regional Work Program was unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and second by Shannon Hart.

vii. Resolution Authorizing Chairman to Sign Agreement between the GSBL and the RC for Administrative Services

Ms. Mathis reported that this resolution is necessary in order for the Chairman to sign an agreement between the GSBL and the MGRC for administrative services. The MGRC provides the staff necessary to administer the GSBL program (financial, secretarial, etc.) and marketing of the different programs.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc. (GSBL) desires to sponsor loans made to small businesses pursuant to Section 503 of Title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the GSBL has a need for marketing, technical, and administrative services to make and service said loans through the Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) has available personnel to provide marketing, technical, and administrative services in connection with said loans; and

WHEREAS, historically, the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, the predecessor to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, has agreed to provide these services at a rate affordable to the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc. and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission have determined that the compensation requested by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission is reasonable and customary for the area; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc. and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission have agreed that compensation will only be for services performed; and

WHEREAS, the GSBL and the MGRC have reached an agreement, which they have reduced to writing; and

WHEREAS, this agreement is in compliance with the provisions of 13 CFR §120.824 and §120.825 as well as SBA's Loan Program Requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is no apparent conflict of interest or self-dealing regarding the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc. and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission understand that the agreement is subject to pre-approval and yearly review by the Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, neither the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, nor any associate of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc. and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission understand that the agreement must be submitted with the Annual Report to the Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, the compensation under this agreement is only from the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc; and

WHEREAS, this agreement shall begin on July 1, 2015 and end on June 30, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission will enter into an agreement with the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc., where the MGRC will provide technical and administrative services for the SBA 504 Loan Program.

The Resolution to authorize the Chairman to Sign the Agreement for Administrative Services was unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and second by Shannon Hart.

viii. Resolution to Support the Expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument

Laura Mathis reported on the expansion of the boundary of the Ocmulgee National Monument to the "National Park & Preserve". The congressional committee will be meeting next week to take action on it. Ms. Mathis stated that the Council passed a similar resolution last year but that since the legislation is moving forward another resolution is desirable.

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property of the Muscogee Creek Nation surrounding the current Ocmulgee National Monument is among the nation's richest archaeological areas; and

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee River corridor south from Macon was a crossroads of key events in our nation's early history, including historic sites associated with the American Frontier period, War of 1812, and the Creek War; and

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee National Monument is both a regional and national treasure and is one of Middle Georgia's most visited destinations for historians, educators and tourists; and

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee River corridor provides important outdoor recreation opportunities for hunters, anglers, hikers, bird watchers and paddlers on the growing Ocmulgee Water Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources describes the corridor as a high priority landscape feature in the state's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and a priority area for land conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, linking the Ocmulgee National Monument with other existing public lands is the first designated "National Park & Preserve" east of the Mississippi, and is a valuable addition to the entire National Park System, which elevates Middle Georgia's status as a national and international tourist destination; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council understands and values the importance of working regionally to maximize the protection, educational and economic benefits of the Ocmulgee National Monument and Ocmulgee River corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council supports the work of the National Park Service, and their work to conduct a Ocmulgee River Corridor Special Resource Study; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council formally supports the expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument boundary to encompass 2,100 acres and H.R. 482, the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2015.

The Resolution to support the expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument was unanimously approved on a motion by Shannon Hart and second by Marty Dominy.

ix. Resolution to Award Contracts for 2016 DHS Coordinated Transportation Services

Brent Lanford reported that the Regional Commission for the last several years has been administering the transportation services and coordinating different state agency transportation services throughout the middle Georgia region for various programs. A resolution is required to authorize the Chairman and the Executive Director to award contracts for DHS Coordinated Transportation Services.

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) serves as prime contractor for the Regional Transportation Office (RTO) of the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide cost-effective, efficient and coordinated transportation services for Region 6; and

WHEREAS, the DHS Coordinated Transportation program is considered important and necessary to public transportation in the MGRC service region, otherwise known as Region 6; and

WHEREAS, Region 6 is now subdivided into the following service areas: Subgroup 1 – Baldwin, Jones, Putnam and Wilkinson counties; Subgroup 2 – Macon-Bibb, Crawford, Monroe and Peach counties; and Subgroup 3 – Houston, Pulaski, and Twiggs counties; and

WHEREAS, the MGRC is responsible for the procurement, management and oversight of transportation providers for each of the service areas comprising Region 6 under the DHS Coordinated Transportation program; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2015 the MGRC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit bids from transportation providers to provide transportation services within Region 6; and

WHEREAS, through the RFP review process and subsequent vetting through the DHS Regional Transportation Office, two qualified providers have been identified as having the fleet capacity, staffing and administrative expertise to provide DHS transportation services for Region 6.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, upon recommendation from its internal RFP review team, is recommending the Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council (EOC), based in Macon, Georgia, to serve Region 6, Subgroup 2 and Quality Transportation, Inc., based in Cochran, Georgia, to serve Region 6, Subgroups 1 and 3.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ralph Nix, MGRC Executive Director, and Charlie Westberry, MGRC Council Chair, are mutually empowered to sign contracts with Macon-Bibb County EOC and Quality Transportation, Inc. to commence the provision of DHS Transportation Services for Region 6, effective July 1, 2015.

The Resolution to Award Contracts for 2016 DHS Coordinated Transportation Services was unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and second by Lee Slade.

- x. Resolution to Honor Amy Saxton on her 15 years of service

Brent Lanford reported on the resolution asking the committee to honor Amy Saxton on 15 years of service. Ms. Saxton is the GIS Mapping Expert. Her quality of work has been excellent during her 15 years as part of the Technology Team.

WHEREAS, Amy Saxton joined the staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission May 15, 2000; and

WHEREAS, she has faithfully dedicated her career to the provision of geospatial data analysis and GIS-based mapping services for the MGRC and its constituent member governments; and

WHEREAS, Amy has consistently demonstrated a standard of excellence through an outstanding work ethic, consistently positive attitude and a genuine compassion for serving people; and

WHEREAS, she has earned the admiration and respect of her peers and the leadership at the Regional Commission and cohorts throughout the state by generously sharing her expertise and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, her work during the past 15 years as a key member of the Technology Team certainly contributed to the Regional Commission being nationally recognized, in 2014, with a Significant Achievement in GIS (SAG) award, the industry's highest honor; and

WHEREAS, Amy has demonstrated the traits of a true servant leader, quietly leading by example and demonstrating a strong passion for helping others; and

WHEREAS, she has faithfully and with dedication supported the mission of the Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council wishes to express its great appreciation for work well done.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council and staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission congratulate her upon the completion of 15 years of service and extend their warmest wishes for continued wellness, prosperity and happiness in the years ahead.

The Resolution to Honor Amy Saxton was unanimously approved on a motion by John Reid and second by Joyce Mitchum.

xi. Resolution to Honor John Leonard on the occasion of his retirement

Ralph Nix reported on the resolution to Honor John Leonard on his retirement. Mr. Leonard is the Executive Director for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. The retirement celebration is scheduled for July 29.

WHEREAS, John Leonard has devoted over five decades of his professional career in regional planning and development by faithfully serving the local communities of southern Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the level and progression of his service to these communities was diverse, including work in economic development, small business loan programs, community development, planning and executive administration; and

WHEREAS, during his career and cumulating in his appointment to Executive Director of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) in 1997, John has been a true champion of regional planning and development in the state of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he has demonstrated true leadership to this cause, having served as President of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), Southeastern Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) Council of Peers, and Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC); and

WHEREAS, his belief and dedication to the concept of regionalism is recognized nationally, as evidenced by the numerous awards, commendations and honors bestowed upon the SGRC during his tenure of executive leadership; and

WHEREAS, John is recognized as a true servant leader, having gained the respect of his peer Executive Directors and their respective policy members, through example of his efforts towards the betterment of his staff and governing council; and

WHEREAS, he is known as a true friend and advocate of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) and its endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff and Council wishes to express its great appreciation to John Leonard for his longtime support and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council and staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission congratulate him upon the completion of a career well done and extend their warmest wishes for continued wellness, prosperity and happiness in retirement.

The Resolution to Honor John Leonard was unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and second by Shannon Hart.

xii. FY 2016 Dues Structure

Ralph Nix reported that the Regional Council voted to increase the dues by 10 cents per capita, per year for the next three years, beginning with each community's FY 2015 fiscal year. The increase was approved at the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee June 2, 2015 to affirm the dues rate for FY 2016 at \$1.20 per capita, and FY 2017 at \$1.30.

The Dues Structure was unanimously approved on a motion by Edd Norris and second by John Harley.

Mr. Nix thanked the Regional Commission for the leadership and support, and he believes the current Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff is the best in the country.

c. Old Business

i. Transportation Funding Act of 2015 Information

As requested at the May Council meeting, Laura Mathis gave a presentation on revenue projections for the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, which modified and expanded the sales tax for the purpose of funding transportation projects that was originally created by the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 (TIA 2010).

Ms. Mathis highlighted on data gathered from the Department of Revenue, looking at sales tax collections as of January 2005. Based on the SPLOST and the LOST data, there is a difference between the two of what can be applied for and what exemptions that apply. The data for the 11 counties of the Middle Georgia Region and three regions in the state that passed the transportation sales tax, show the relationship between the transportation sales tax and the local options sales tax, since there are special exemptions that apply to the transportation sales tax. Once the data was collected, the projection for the LOST revenue would be from July 1, 2016 to

Dec 31, 2025. The exemptions for the three regions, Heart of Georgia, River Valley and Central Savannah average approximately 18.5 percent of the generated local sales tax.

Ms. Mathis noted that an estimated \$640 million would be generated in the region if there is a regional transportation sales tax. Seventy-five percent (\$480 million) will go toward STIP projects and 25 percent (\$160 million) will be split between the counties/cities.

Ms. Mathis noted on a county transportation sales tax basis; if an estimated \$640 million would be generated with a county transportation sales tax, if all counties pass resolutions to initiate the process, and if all have an Intergovernmental Agreement, 30 percent (\$192 million) will go toward STIP projects.

Following discussion, Mayor Robert Reichert suggested that the Regional Commission prepare a draft resolution to initiate the Regional Transportation Sales Tax process and send to all municipalities in the middle Georgia region.

After discussion, Robert Reichert made a motion that the Regional Commission prepare a draft resolution. The motion was seconded by Butch Hall and unanimously approved.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- i. Nomination of Appointments to the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc.

Chairman Westberry stated that it is time for nominations for the Georgia Small Business Lender to be submitted. For the 2016 appointments, it is the municipal member's turn to submit nominations. Packages will be mailed in the upcoming weeks with the goal of having the nominations complete by August 6, 2015.

- ii. Senior Expo

The Regional Commission hosted the annual Senior Expo on May 14, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. No meeting in July
- b. Next meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2015

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the June Council meeting was adjourned until August 13, 2015.