

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BALDWIN COUNTY

John Westmoreland
Matt Poyner
Denese Shinholster

Dick Bazemore
Melvin Lawrence
Edd Norris

PEACH COUNTY

Melvin Walker
Barbara Williams
James Richardson

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charlie Westberry
Paul Chapman
Robert Ray

PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall
Lee Slade
Tim Young

HOUSTON COUNTY

Tommy Stalnaker
John Harley
George Slappey

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster
Walter Rucker
Terry Schwindler

JONES COUNTY

Preston Hawkins
Jimmy Roberts
Francis Adams
Frank Duke
Stephen Tingen

TWIGGS COUNTY

Ken Fowler
Katheryn Epps
Shannon Hart

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Lonnie Miley

WILKINSON COUNTY

Mark Dupree
Charles Brack
Marty Dominy
Jonathan Jackson

MONROE COUNTY

Michael Bilderback
Eric Wilson

MGRC Council Meeting

February 11, 2016

Page - 2 -

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bubber Epps – Georgia State Representative, District 144

Theresa Howard - Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

Billy Matthews- Economic Development Director, Jones County

Cheryl Crumbley - Sr. Vice President, Magnolia State Bank

Jake Cox – Community Planner, Houston County

Kris Vaughn- Georgia Forward

Joe Thomas- Bank of Dudley

Ben Vaughn- Vaughn and Dillon

STAFF PRESENT:

Ralph Nix – Executive Director

Laura Mathis – Deputy Director

Brent Lanford – Deputy Director

Matt Garvin - Finance Officer

Jen Doran – Office Manager

Greg Boike - Sr. Government Services Specialist

Crystal Gaillard - Government Services Specialist

Jonathan Connell - Government Services Specialist

Sam Perren - Government Services Specialist

Cam Yearty - Government Services Specialist

Kimberly Lowe - Government Services Specialist

Daniel Dobbins - Government Services Specialist

Robert O’Neil – Technology Services Specialist

Julie Hall – Aging Director

Tyler Garrison – Special Projects Coordinator

Andrea Jones - Career Development Facilitator

Kim Stanton – Executive Secretary

Kevin Brown – Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Butch Hall called the February 11, 2016 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 26 voting and 11 non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation

Crawford County Council Member Paul Chapman gave the invocation.

Chairman Hall informed the Council of the passing of James Khoury's wife, Cheryl this week and to keep James and his family in our thoughts.

b. Welcome

Chairman Hall welcomed everyone to the February 11, 2016 Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

Chairman Hall acknowledged the following guests at the Regional Commission Council Meeting:

Cheryl Crumbley

Kris Vaughn

Ben Vaughn

Joe Thomas

Jake Cox

State Representative Bubber Epps

Theresa Howard - Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

Billy Matthews

MACON-BIBB COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL, INC.

Lonnie Miley, President, Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc., thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Miley thanked Ralph Nix and the MGRC staff regarding the partnership between the Regional Commission and the Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council for the work they performed that included:

- Design and launch of a new website.
- Assisting with a community needs assessment which is underway.
- Contracted transportation services for Crawford, Macon-Bibb, Monroe and Peach counties.

MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CHAMPIONS

Laura Mathis gave an update on the Regional Leadership Champions Program. The program is a partnership between the Regional Commission and the Fanning Institute, with funding support from OEA. Alumni from the 2015 class of the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions (MGRLC) have been continuing their regional leadership commission by developing a slate of projects to pursue in the upcoming months. Ms. Mathis introduced 8 of the 38 members who completed the program.

Donavan Head
Kris Vaughn
Joe Thomas
Jake Cox
Cheryl Crumbley
Barbara Williams
Ben Vaughn
Tim Young

Kris Vaughn reported that she is the Chair of the Alumni Advisory Committee for the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions. Ms. Vaughn mentioned that the vision of the Regional Leadership Champions Program are leaders focused on fostering collaborative efforts to be catalysts for improving economic prosperity, education and quality-of-life for a thriving Middle Georgia.

Joe Thomas reported on the Economic Prosperity part of the program, which to be a thriving Middle Georgia, it must have diverse economic opportunities, a skilled workforce and strategies to market Middle Georgia as a desired location to live, learn, work and play.

Donavan Head reported on Education that to be a thriving Middle Georgia, we must improve graduation rates and performance in reading on grade level by involving parents in the child's education and working with the state and community leaders.

Jake Cox reported that quality-of-life can consist of facilitating innovative approaches to reducing crime, improve mental health services in the region, and increase digital access to underserved communities.

Cheryl Crumbley thanked the Regional Commission for their support and was thankful for being part of the Regional Leadership Champions Program. The mission statement and the action plans that were developed, hopefully will continue for future leadership classes.

The endorsement for the work program of the Regional Leadership Champions Program was approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by Tommy Stalnaker.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2016 Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the January 14, 2016 Council meeting and they were unanimously approved on a motion by Paul Chapman and second by Lee Slade.

- b. Old Business

None to report

- c. New Business

1. Chairman Appointments

Chairman Hall made the following appointments in accordance with the Bylaws. The appointments for the 2016-2018 term are:

Budget, Audit and Personnel

Robert Reichert, Chairman
Billy Webster –County Member
Charles Brack – Municipal Member
Dick Bazemore – Non-public Member
Clifford Holmes - Associate member
Charlie Westberry - At-Large Member
Shannon Hart – Ex-Officio
Johnny Westmoreland – Ex-Officio
Butch Hall – Ex-Officio

Chairman Hall mentioned that he appointed two Ex-Officio members to the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee, Shannon Hart and Johnny Westmoreland, to broaden the Council engagement in this important area.

Pension/Retirement Committee

George Slappey
Frank Duke

Aging Services Committee

Johnny Westmoreland
Paul Chapman
John Harley
Francis Adams
Lonnie Miley
Mike Bilderback
Melvin Walker
Henry Cravey
Terry Schwindler
Kathryn Epps
Jonathan Jackson
Bert Bivins – Ex-officio
Denise Shinholster – Ex-officio

Chairman Hall reported that he will serve as the policy representative to the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions and the entire Council will serve as the CEDS Committee.

No action is required by the Council on these appointments. Chairman Hall stated his appreciation everyone's willingness to serve and he looks forward to a great year.

2. Resolutions to honor service of MGRC Councilmembers

Chairman Hall mentioned at the January meeting that a number of Councilmembers retired from service. We have prepared resolutions to honor each of them highlighting their contributions and copies of the resolutions were included in their package.

The resolutions in honor of Johnny Branan, Nicky Cabero, Charles Cook, John Howard, Joyce Mitchum, and John Reid were unanimously approved on a motion by Shannon Hart and second by Paul Chapman.

Chairman Hall presented a special recognition to Charlie Westberry for his service and leadership as Chairman from 2014 – 2016.

3. Local Assistance Requests

Kimberly Lowe presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the January Council meeting:

- Community:** **Baldwin County**
Project Title: Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan
Project Description: Assistance with updating the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Community:** **City of Hawkinsville**
Project Title: CDBG Grant Application
Project Description: Preparation of an FY 2016 CDBG Application.
- Community:** **City of Hawkinsville**
Project Title: Comprehensive Plan
Project Description: Assistance with updating the Hawkinsville-Pulaski Comprehensive Plan.
- Community:** **City of Irwinton**
Project Title: Grant Application
Project Description: Preparation of a Rural Development Housing Preservation Application.
- Community:** **Jones County**
Project Title: Grant Assistance
Project Description: Preparation of a Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant through the American Humane Association for the new Animal Control Facility.
- Community:** **City of Milledgeville**
Project Title: Ordinance
Project Description: Assistance updating the city's Sign Ordinance.
- Community:** **City of Perry**
Project Title: Grant Assistance
Project Description: Assistance in searching and preparing grants associated with creating a dog park.
- Community:** **City of Toombsboro**
Project Title: Grant Assistance
Project Description: Assistance in preparing an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application.
- Community:** **Twiggs County**
Project Title: Grant Application
Project Description: Assistance with preparation of a USDA Community Facilities Grant application.

- Ms. Lowe also reported that the Regional Commission hosted economic development sales team training in partnership with Georgia Power and MGEA to provide helpful tips on interacting with Economic Development prospects.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Lee Slade and second by Billy Webster.

4. Preparation and Submittal of FTA Section 5310 Application Update

Matt Garvin reported that, in the past, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has requested grant funding assistance from the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) for the purpose of providing transportation services to eligible DHS Division of Aging Services clients as part of the Section 5310 Coordinated Transportation Program. The program provides vital public transportation services to the following counties: Baldwin, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Macon-Bibb, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Twiggs and Wilkinson. Putnam County does not provide transportation services to DHS Division of Aging Services clients, but does provide transportation services to eligible clients in other areas of the Coordinated Transportation Program.

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant" has requested grant funding assistance from the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) for the purpose of providing transportation service to eligible DHS Division of Aging Services clients; and

WHEREAS, this project is considered to be important and necessary to public transportation in Baldwin, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Macon-Bibb, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Twiggs and Wilkinson counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Applicant, while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration, will comply with the federal statutes, regulations, executive orders and administrative requirements as listed in Appendix A of the FTA Circular FTA C 9070.1C, and as also included in Appendix B of the Georgia Department of Human Resources State Management Plan and Application Package for Elderly and Disabled Transportation inclusive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ralph Nix, Executive Director, is empowered to sign contracts on behalf of the Applicant, and that he may sign on behalf of the Applicant any assurance, certification, or other documentation that may be required as a part of the application submitted.

The FTA Section 5310 Application Update was unanimously approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by George Slappey.

5. Area Agency on Aging Resolution Approving Submission of FY 2016 Area Plan

Julie Hall reported that the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, all Area Agencies on Aging must submit Area Plans which documents goals related to service delivery within the public service region. This process is completed every four years with annual updates and revisions. Adoption of the resolution provides the Middle Georgia Regional

Commission the right to submit the document to the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services following review of the Aging Services Committee.

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

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission 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 by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council prior to implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services requires preparation of an annual plan which identifies the types and quantifies the level of services needed by the older citizens of Middle Georgia; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Middle Georgia that an FY 2017 Area Agency on Aging Area Plan Revision be developed and submitted to the Division of Aging Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, by adoption of this resolution, does hereby proclaim its commitment to serving the senior citizens of Middle Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Executive Director of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission is empowered to sign contracts, assurances, certifications or other documents, as may be required to administer Area Agency on Aging programs.

The submission of FY 2016 Area Plan was unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by Billy Webster.

6. Resolution to Transmit the 2016 – 2036 Regional Agenda

Greg Boike reported that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff has continued work since the November 12, 2015 meeting on required five-year update to the Regional Plan. This update is entitled: *2016-2036 Plan for ... A Thriving Middle Georgia*. In accordance with the Stakeholder Involvement Program, the MGRC Council is serving as the Steering Committee for the development of this Plan. Since the January 2016 meeting of the Regional Commission Council, staff has hosted meetings in each county of the region, developed a draft of the Regional Agenda,

and conducted the required regional public hearing. The Regional Agenda includes several sections: Vision, Issues and Opportunities, Implementation Program and Evaluation/Monitoring. A full copy of the draft agenda is on the Middle Georgia Regional Commission's website at www.middlegeorgiarc.org.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires every Regional Commission in the state to periodically update their Regional Plan in accordance with the state's Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning and Schedule for Regional Planning; and

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

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a Regional Agenda as a required component of the Regional Plan update; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has followed the public participation elements of its Stakeholder Involvement Program in the development of the Regional Agenda, receiving input from over 150 individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on the 11th day of February 2016, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council, meeting in regular session, hereby transmits the draft Regional Agenda to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review, comment, and notification of interested parties.

The submission of the Regional Agenda to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs was unanimously approved as presented on a motion by George Slappey and second by Lee Slade.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Quarterly Financial Report

Matt Garvin presented the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2015. Mr. Garvin reported that that State Revenues are at 44 percent of budgeted revenues, local revenues stand at 35 percent of the budgeted revenues, federal revenues are at 44 percent of the budgeted revenues, and expenditures are at 44 percent of budgeted expenditures.

b. Georgia Department of Audits Local Government Survey

Chairman Butch Hall reported that each year the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, Performance Audit Division, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-8-38, conducts a performance review of the 12 regional commissions. As part of this review, they survey municipal and county

governments throughout the state to assess their satisfaction with the commissions. Staff recently provided names and contact information to the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts to receive the survey. Over the past two years, Middle Georgia has had the highest participation rate of local governments and we sincerely hope that all local governments will participate.

c. US Census 2016 Government Units Survey

Chairman Butch Hall reported that the Regional Commission received notice that the US Census Bureau will be conducting the 2016 Government Units Survey in preparation for the 2017 Census of Governments. Please respond to the correspondence directly from the US Census Bureau on this important project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Butch Hall announced that Kevin Brown, the Regional Commissions legal counsel, was recently named a partner in the corporate department of the firm Seyfarth Shaw LLP based out of Atlanta.

Barbara Williams reported that Mayor William F. Masee, City of Marshallville, passed away February 9, 2016.

Chairman Butch Hall stated that the next Budget, Audit & Personnel meeting will be February 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the February Council meeting was adjourned until March 10, 2016.