

## MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission  
Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m.  
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

### MEMBERS PRESENT

#### BALDWIN COUNTY

William Millians  
John Westmoreland  
Richard Mullins  
Derek Williams  
Denese Shinholster

#### CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charles Westberry  
Brent Lowe  
Paul Chapman  
Becky Smith  
Robert Ray

#### HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley  
George Slappey  
Tommy Stalnaker

#### JONES COUNTY

Jimmy Roberts  
Frank Duke  
Chris Weidner  
Francis Adams  
Stephen Tingen

#### MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert  
Lonnie Miley

#### MONROE COUNTY

Gregory Tapley  
Eric Wilson  
Richard Bazemore  
Melvin Lawrence  
Edd Norris

#### PEACH COUNTY

Martin Moseley  
James Khoury  
James Richardson  
Carolyn Biggs  
Barbara Williams

#### PULASKI COUNTY

Tim Young  
Henry Cravey  
Lee Slade  
Butch Hall  
James Colson

#### PUTNAM COUNTY

Alan Foster  
Walter Rucker  
Billy Webster  
Gary Sanders

#### TWIGGS COUNTY

Ken Fowler  
Kathryn Epps  
Shannon Hart

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy  
Mark Dupree  
Charles Brack

MIDDLE GEORGIA

James Vaughn  
Charles Sims  
Nancy Nash

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ed Barbee – Mayor Pro-tem, City of Gray  
Tonya Mole, Field Representative for DCA  
Andrew Ross, Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson  
Greg Ziesenhene, Field Representative for Senator David Perdue  
Donovan Head, Field Representative for Austin Scott

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Mathis – Executive Director  
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director  
Terrilyn Hannah – Director of Workforce  
Michelle Grembowski – Director of Information Technology  
Julie Hall - Director of Area Agency on Aging  
Greg Boike – Director of Public Administration  
Britt Aliperti- Government Services Specialist  
Kimberly Lowe - Government Services Specialist  
Jasmine Campbell - Government Services Specialist  
Marsellas Williams - Government Services Specialist  
Brittany Bullock - Government Services Specialist  
Robert O’Neil – GIS Analyst  
Justin Futo – GIS Analyst  
Matt Garvin – Director of Finance  
Kevin Brown – Attorney  
Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Butch Hall called the January 12, 2017 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Kim Stanton called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present with 29 voting and 19 non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Peach County Council Member Barbara Williams gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Council Chairman Butch Hall welcomed everyone to the January 12, 2017 Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

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

Ed Barbee – Mayor Pro-tem, City of Gray  
Tonya Mole, Field Representative for DCA  
Andrew Ross, Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson  
Greg Ziesenhene, Field Representative for Senator David Perdue  
Donovan Head, Field Representative for Austin Scott

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2016 Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the November 12, 2016 Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Lee Slade and second by Mark Dupree.

b. Old Business

None

c. New Business

i. Council Member Appointments

Council Chairman Butch Hall reported on the 2017 Council appointments that have been received since the November meeting.

**BALDWIN COUNTY**

John H. Westmoreland - County Member  
Richard Mullins, Jr. - Municipal Member  
William Millians - Non-Public Member  
Derek Williams - Associate Member  
Denese Shinholster - Associate Member

**HOUSTON COUNTY**

Tommy Stalnaker - County Member  
John Harley - Municipal Member  
George E. Slappey - Non-Public Member  
Mayor Randy Toms - Associate Member  
Mr. Clifford Holmes - Associate Member

**JONES COUNTY**

Chris Weidner - County Member  
Stephen Tingen - Municipal Member  
Jimmy Roberts - Non-Public Member  
Francis Adams - Associate Member  
Frank Duke - Associate Member

**MACON-BIBB COUNTY**

Robert Reichert - County Member  
Bert Bivins - Municipal Member  
Isaac Culver - Non-Public Member  
Lonnie Miley - Associate Member  
Robby Fountain - Associate Member

**MONROE COUNTY**

Gregory Tapley - County Member  
Mayor Eric Wilson - Municipal Member  
Richard Bazemore - Non-Public Member  
Melvin Lawrence - Associate Member  
Edd. Norris - Associate Member

**PEACH COUNTY**

Martin Moseley - County Member  
Barbara Williams - Municipal Member  
James Khoury - Non-Public Member  
James Richardson - Associate Member  
Carolyn Peacock-Biggs - Associate Member

**PUTNAM COUNTY**

Alan Foster - County Member  
Walter C. Rucker, Jr. - Municipal Member  
Bill Sharp - Non-Public Member  
Billy Webster - Associate Member  
Gary Sanders - Associate Member

**TWIGGS COUNTY**

Ken Fowler - County Member  
Charles Williams - Municipal Member  
Shannon Hart - Non-Public Member  
Kathryn Epps - Associate Member  
Jimmy Smith - Associate Member

Mark Dupree made a motion to accept the Council appointments. The motion was seconded by Johnny Westmoreland and unanimously approved.

Council Chairman Butch Hall reported that several members are leaving the Council, he expressed his appreciation to them for their service.

Matt Poyner  
Preston Hawkins  
Chuck O'Neal  
Matt Rogers

Michael Bilderback  
Terry Schwindler  
Jonathan Jackson  
Alfredia Walker

Council Chairman Butch Hall made a motion for a resolution of recognition and appreciation. The motion was seconded by Mark Dupree and unanimously approved.

ii. Local Assistance Requests

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

**Community:**                    **City of Centerville**  
Project Title:                    Grant Assistance  
Project Description:            Assistance with locating grants and funding for use in the new Center Park at Centerville and the surrounding Infrastructure.

**Community:**                    **City of Centerville**  
Project Title:                    Incentive Package  
Project Description:            Assistance with developing an incentive package for a real estate developer or investor for the Town Center Project Area.

**Community:**                    **Crawford County**  
Project Title:                    Job description  
Project Description:            Assistance with the search and preparation of a job description for a County Manager.

**Community:**                    **City of Danville**  
Project Title:                    Nuisance Ordinance  
Project Description:            Assistance with updating the city's Nuisance Ordinance.

**Community:**                    **City of Eatonton**  
Project Title:                    Grant Assistance  
Project Description:            Assistance to Vizitech USA in identifying and preparing applications for eligible grants.

**Community:**                    **City of Eatonton**  
Project Title:                    Grant Assistance  
Project Description:            Assistance with the preparation of an application under the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2017 Body Worn Camera Partnership Program.

- Community:** **City of Eatonton**  
Project Title: Local Government Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance with updating the Opportunity Zone Report.
- Community:** **City of Hawkinsville**  
Project Title: Local Government Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance with updating the Opportunity Zone Report.
- Community:** **Town of Ivey**  
Project Title: Grant Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance with the preparation of a Community Development Block Grant application.
- Community:** **City of McIntyre**  
Project Title: Grant Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance in identifying grant monies for demolition of old dilapidated houses.
- Community:** **City of Milledgeville**  
Project Title: Local Government Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance in identifying funding resources for a project to be located in Downtown Milledgeville to rehabilitate a historic building into a mixed-use development.
- Community:** **Peach County**  
Project Title: Grant Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance with the preparation of a FEMA FY2016 SAFER Grant program.
- Community:** **Putnam County**  
Project Title: Grant Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance in identifying grant opportunities for recreation expenditures, related to the purchase of recreation equipment and the construction or rehabilitation of recreational facilities.
- Community:** **City of Reynolds**  
Project Title: City Charter  
Project Description: Assistance with updating the city charter for the City of Reynolds to replace the 1915 original version.
- Community:** **City of Roberta**  
Project Title: Application Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance with completing a USDA application.
- Community:** **City of Toombsboro**  
Project Title: Local Government Assistance  
Project Description: Assistance with researching cost to renovate the old jail to transform

into a historic visitor site.

**Community:** **Twiggs County**

Project Title: Local Government Assistance

Project Description: Assistance with updating the Section 650 county code that pertains to Planning & Zoning, Land Use, and Subdivision Regulations.

Kimberly Lowe also reported on several projects which were previously approved and have been completed.

- The Area Agency on Aging was selected by the Department of Human Services as one of the pilots for the What a Waste Program to collect data on the types and amount of food consumed or not consumed by seniors. The Middle Georgia Community Action Agency will collect data from Senior Center participants in Jones, Peach, and Twiggs counties and report back to the Area Agency on Aging.
- The Area Agency on Aging also kicked off the Assistive Technology program with the aid of Disability Connections to serve the seniors of all 11 counties with supplies to encourage their independence.
- Work Source exceeded their performance requirement for participant's median earnings reaching \$7,000 from July 1-December 31.
- Six Work Source students have been recommended for Macon-Bibb County teaching positions.
- A former workforce development participant was appointed Clinical Coordinator/Instructor at the Central Georgia Technical College Warner Robins Campus.
- Work Source graduated eight Health Care and two Information Technology students from Middle Georgia State University and Gordon College. Six of the eight Health Care students are already employed in Middle Georgia.
- FEMA has reviewed and approved Monroe County's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan update.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Dick Bazemore and second by Ken Fowler.

### iii. Boundary Annexation Survey Process

Justin Futo reported on the Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) Process which is used annually by the US Census Bureau to collect information annexations and de-annexations to confirm municipal boundaries. BAS is a very important process for all local governments to complete. The deadline to submit the survey is March 1, 2017 and assistance is available from the Regional Commission upon request. Mr. Futo stated that this is for information purposes only; no action is required by Council.

iv. High Demand Career Initiative Workforce Development Grant

Terrilyn Hannah reported on the High Demand Career Initiative Workforce Development Grant in collaboration with the Middle Georgia Consortium (workforce area 11), which will focus on private sector industries and the challenges facing businesses in Georgia. Ms. Hannah reported that one of the two local areas in our region needs to be identified as the Fiscal Agent and the Applicant. The Middle Georgia Consortium declined to serve as the fiscal agent and applicant and requested that the Regional Commission (as the fiscal agent for workforce area 10) serve as such.

Billy Webster made a motion to approve that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission serve as the Fiscal Agent for the new program. The motion was seconded by Shannon Hart and unanimously approved.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Laura Mathis introduced new staff members, Jasmine Campbell, Government Services Specialist, Britt Aliperti, Government Services Specialist, Brittany Bullock, Government Services Specialist, and Penny Jones, ADRC Counselor who was not present.

Ms. Mathis reported that the City of Reynolds requested assistance with updating their city charter. The City of Reynolds is in the River Valley Region. The state law allows a region to work in another region, and the MGRC received the permission of the River Valley Regional Commission.

a. Executive Directors Report

Laura Mathis presented the Executive Directors report with updates since the November meeting.

- Employees are required to disclose business activities of themselves or family members with local governments each year. For 2016, Selentria Kendrick and Cam Yearty have reported business activities in accordance with state law. This is presented for information purposes only.
- The MGRC successfully implemented a new compensation system that was approved at the November Council meeting.
- The MGRC developed revisions and updates to the Personnel Manual for future consideration.



- The MGRC received notification that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission received \$1.7 million in funding from DOD OEA which will support several economic and workforce development projects in the region over the next 18 months.
- The Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions second cohort will be launched in February 2017.
- The MGRC is engaged in discussions with GSBL leadership about the new regulatory environment for their programs.
- MGRC developed a tool for an on-line project submission for the regional transportation sales tax in partnership with GDOT. At GDOTs request, the MGRC will call for projects in the next few weeks to continue the process for a regional transportation sales tax. Once projects have been submitted, the Executive Committee will meet.
- Earlier this week, DCA announced that Georgia received a grant that will enable 44 counties to acquire highly accurate digital elevation data known as LiDAR. This effort, led by the GIO, is the result of a partnership between US Geological Survey, EPD, and the Natural Resource Conversation Services. In middle Georgia, Crawford, Houston, Peach, Pulaski and Twiggs counties were selected for this first round. The goal of the partnership is to apply for two additional rounds of funding that will eventually cover the entire state.
- In the coming months, members of the management team will visit local governments, especially those with newly elected officials and staff, to share a brief orientation on the services available through the Regional Commission.
- A “resource fair” will be held at the Regional Commission for local government officials and staff to learn about various agencies like DCA, USDA, GEFA, DOAS, and others. More details to follow.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Council Member Orientation
  - i. Wednesday, January 18, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - ii. Friday, January 27, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the January Council meeting was adjourned until February 9, 2017.