

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2018, 6:00 pm
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Lee Slade
John Westmoreland
Richard Mullins
Derek Williams
Denese Shinholster

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charles Westberry
Brent Lowe
Paul Chapman

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
George Slappey
Tommy Stalnaker

JONES COUNTY

Frank Duke
Francis Adams
Ed Barbee
Chris Weidner
Jimmy Roberts

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Yolanda Latimore
Dominque Johnson
Jim Manley

MONROE COUNTY

Richard Bazemore
Melvin Lawrence
Greg Tapley
Eric Wilson

PEACH COUNTY

Martin Moseley
James Khoury

PULASKI COUNTY

Tim Young

PUTNAM COUNTY

Walter Rocker
Billy Webster

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy
Charles Brack
Emma Bacon

MIDDLE GEORGIA

Nancy Nash

GUESTS PRESENT:

Carolyn Dallas - Field Representative for Jody Hice
Shavonda Hill - Field Representative for Sanford Bishop
Brian Kemp – The Office of Georgia Secretary of State
Rebecca Rocker – Wife of Mayor Walter Rocker
Andrew Ross- Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson
Ron Shipman – Georgia Power
Eric Wilkinson – Georgia Department of Transportation

STAFF PRESENT:

Matt Beal - GIS Analyst
Greg Boike – Director of Public Administration
Kevin Brown – Attorney
Sara Dusenberry - Government Services Specialist
Matt Garvin – Director of Finance
Julie Hall - Director of Area Agency on Aging
Terrilyn Hannah – Director of Workforce
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director
Kimberly Lowe - Senior Government Services Specialist
Laura Mathis – Executive Director
Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant
Kayleigh Sullivan - Senior Government Services Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Robert Reichert called the March 8, 2018, meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Kim Stanton reviewed the attendance log and indicated that a quorum was present with 22 voting and 11 non-voting members.

OPENING CEREMONIES

- a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Houston County Council Member John Harley gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Council Chairman Robert Reichert welcomed everyone to the March 8, 2018, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

Council Chairman Robert Reichert acknowledged the following guests at the Regional Commission Council Meeting:

Carolyn Dallas - Field Representative for Jody Hice
Shavonda Hill - Field Representative for Sanford Bishop
Brian Kemp – The Office of Georgia Secretary of State
Rebecca Rocker – Wife of Mayor Walter Rocker
Andrew Ross- Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson
Ron Shipman – Georgia Power
Eric Wilkinson – Georgia Department of Transportation

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2018, Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the February 8, 2018, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and second by Jimmy Roberts.

b. Old Business

None

c. New Business

i. Local Assistance Requests

Sara Dusenberry presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the February Council meeting:

Community: City of Byron
Project Description: Assistance with updating the city's zoning and sign ordinances.

Community: City of Centerville
Project Description: Assistance with identifying methods of funding for Code Enforcement.

Community: Crawford County
Project Description: Assistance with researching comparable salaries for the Chief Magistrate Clerk.

Community: Jones County
Project Description: Assistance with informational sessions on the proposed regional TSPLOST.

Community: Macon-Bibb County
Project Description: Assistance with submitting a grant proposal for Real IMPACT Center to the Charles H. Jones Foundation.

Community: Peach County
Project Description: Assistance with submitting a grant application under the FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety grant program.

Community: City of Roberta
Project Description: Assistance with the preparation of a Golf Cart Ordinance.

Sara Dusenberry also reported on several projects which were previously approved and have been completed.

- The City of Forsyth has been awarded an EDA Investment Award for electrical infrastructure improvements. The total investment is \$510,790 and the anticipated impact is the creation of 50 jobs, retention of 30 jobs, and \$46 million leveraged in private investment.
- The cities of Centerville and Hawkinsville have been selected to move on to round two of the Georgia DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Charles Westberry and second by Walter Rucker.

ii. Regional Transportation Sales Tax Presentation

Chairman Reichert stated that, after nearly a year of work, the Regional Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) will be on the ballot in May. Chairman Reichert requested a recap of the process and projects, as well as information from Georgia Department of Transportation on the current TSPLOST regions. He called on Laura Mathis to provide the recap of the process and projects.

Ms. Mathis stated that the election will be held May 22, 2018, for a 1 percent, 10-year sales tax that would begin October 1, 2018. She stated that by law, 75 percent of the funds generated will be used for projects on the Regional Investment List and 25 percent of the funds generated will go to local governments for transportation projects. Copies of the Regional Investment List and the Local Share projections were provided. Ms. Mathis stated that votes will be tallied at the regional level - if majority votes are "yes", then the referendum is approved. It is not based on the number of counties who approve the question. Lastly, Ms. Mathis stated that the required match for LMIG would be reduced from 30 percent to 10 percent, if the TSPLOST is approved.

Ms. Mathis reviewed the project list development process to date, revenue projections, revenue budget, and a summary of the regional investment list.

Ms. Mathis then introduced Eric Wilkinson, TIA Regional Coordinator. Mr. Wilkinson reported on some of the project improvements that have been completed in other regions of the state with the TSPLOST funds.

Chairman Reichert thanked Ms. Mathis and Mr. Wilkinson for the presentation. He also stated that both Regional Commission and GDOT staff are available upon request to provide informational sessions on the TSPLOST.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Report

Brent Lanford gave a brief description of the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process. LUCA is the only mechanism for reviewing and updating the address listing that the Census Bureau will use for distribution of the Census forms. Mr. Lanford stated that the LUCA process is underway and that 16 LUCA packages have been received to date.

b. Executive Director's Report

Laura Mathis presented the Executive Director's report with updates since the February meeting.

Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions Program

Ms. Mathis announced that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission was awarded the Innovation Community Leadership award from the J. W. Fanning Institute for the way the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champion program was structured. The third class will begin March 16, 2018.

Robins Air Force Base Tour

Ms. Mathis reported that the Regional Commission along with the 21st Century Partnership and Houston County hosted the leaders of Twiggs County, Wilkinson County, Baldwin County, and Putnam County on a tour of Robins Air Force Base. In the fall, a second tour of the Base will be arranged for leaders from the western part of the region.

Area Plan

Ms. Mathis reported that the Aging Services Committee met last week to approve the submission of the Area Plan to the Division of Aging Services.

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Senior Day Expo

Ms. Mathis reported that May 31, 2018 is Senior Day Expo at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and invited all to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next MGRC meeting will be April 12, 2018. Chairman Reichert stated that he will not be at the April meeting; he will attend GMA training. Vice-Chairman Dick Bazemore will preside over the meeting.
- The 31st Annual Forsythia Festival will be March 10 and March 11 in Forsyth.
- Cherry Blossom Festival will be March 16 - 25, 2018 in Macon-Bibb.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the March Council meeting was adjourned.