

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 2018, 6:00 pm
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Lee Slade
John Westmoreland
Derek Williams

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charles Westberry
Paul Chapman

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
Clifford Holmes
George Slappey
Tommy Stalnaker

JONES COUNTY

Frank Duke
Francis Adams
Ed Barbee
Jimmy Roberts

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Yolanda Latimore

MONROE COUNTY

Richard Bazemore
Edd Norris
Eric Wilson

PEACH COUNTY

Martin Moseley
James Khoury
Barbara Williams
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Tim Young
Butch Hall
Henry Cravey
Brooks Bailey

PUTNAM COUNTY

Stephen Hersey
Paul Van Haute
Gary Sanders
Billy Webster

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart
Kathryn Epps
Ken Fowler

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy
Charles Brack
Emma Bacon

MIDDLE GEORGIA

James Vaughn
Nancy Nash

GUESTS PRESENT:

Carolyn Dallas - Field Representative for Jody Hice
Greg Ziesenhene - Field Representative for David Perdue
John Hudson – Crawford County Development Authority
Joyce Denson – Mayor, City of Toombsboro
Bubber Epps - Georgia State Representative, District 144
Bennett Norris - son of Edd Norris
Ken Clark – Commissioner, City of Hawkinsville

STAFF PRESENT:

Matt Beal - GIS Analyst
Greg Boike – Director of Public Administration
Kevin Brown – Attorney
Jen Doran – Office Manager
Sara Dusenberry - Government Services Specialist
Julie Hall - Director of Area Agency on Aging
Terrilyn Hannah – Director of Workforce
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director
Laura Mathis – Executive Director
Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Council Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore called the April 12, 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 24 voting and 13 non-voting members.

OPENING CEREMONIES

- a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Crawford County Council Member Paul Chapman gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Council Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore welcomed everyone to the April 12, 2018, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

Council Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore acknowledged the following guests at the Regional Commission Council Meeting:

Carolyn Dallas - Field Representative for Jody Hice
Greg Ziesenhene - Field Representative for David Perdue
John Hudson – Crawford County Development Authority
Joyce Denson – Mayor, City of Toombsboro
Bubber Epps - Georgia State Representative, District 144
Bennett Norris - son of Edd Norris
Ken Clark – Commissioner, City of Hawkinsville

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

There were no corrections to the minutes of the March 8, 2018, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Tommy Stalnaker and second by Paul Van Haute.

b. Old Business

None

c. New Business

i. Local Assistance Requests

Greg Boike presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the March Council meeting:

Community: Baldwin County

Project Description: Assistance with submitting a SAFER grant application to FEMA.

Community: City of Byron

Project Description: Assistance with creating a social media policy for all departments and employees of the City of Byron.

Community: City of Centerville

Project Description: Assistance with updating the city's personnel system.

Community: City of Fort Valley

Project Description: Assistance with applying for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant.

Community: City of Gordon

Project Description: Assistance with updating the Water Sewage Operator job description.

Community: City of Hawkinsville

Project Description: Assistance with submitting a USDA Rural Business Development Grant.

Community: Town of Ivey

Project Description: Assistance with submitting grant applications for a Body Worn Camera Policy, Smart Policing Initiative, and the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program.

Community: Town of Ivey

Project Description: Assistance with submitting a CDBG.

Community: Jones County

Project Description: Assistance with updating the county's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.

Community: Macon-Bibb County

Project Description: Assistance with updating the Urban Redevelopment Plan.

Community: City of Milledgeville

Project Description: Assistance with preparing an EDA Grant for the Water Treatment Plant.

Community: Peach County

Project Description: Assistance with reformatting the county's personnel manual.

Community: Peach County

Project Description: Assistance with the recruitment and hiring process of filling the County Administrator position.

Community: Pulaski County

Project Description: Assistance with submitting a USDA Community Facilities Grant.

Community: Town of Toombsboro

Project Description: Assistance facilitating a retreat and updating the city's charter.

Greg Boike also reported on several projects which were previously approved and have been completed.

- Crawford County successfully closed on a \$300,000 loan from its Revolving Loan Fund to create 30 new jobs through the development of a new business.
- The Area Agency on Aging partnered with Navicent Health to assist with their Healthy Communities Assessments to improve healthcare in the community.
- The Public Administration group successfully submitted seven CDBGs for a number of communities in the middle Georgia area.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Butch Hall and second by John Harley.

ii. Resolution to establish Regional Senior Hunger Coalition

Julie Hall reported that the MGRC is requesting approval to contract with the Department of Human Services/Division of Aging Services for the development of a Regional Senior Hunger Coalition. The Department of Human Services statewide plan on senior hunger establishes state and regional goals to reduce the impact of senior hunger throughout Georgia.

In this effort, the Department of Human Services has set aside \$5,000 for each AAA region to coordinate Regional Senior Hunger Coalitions. Adoption of the resolution provides the Middle Georgia Regional Commission the agreement to contract with the Department of Human Services to establish the Middle Georgia Regional Senior Hunger Coalition.

The resolution to establish the Regional Senior Hunger Coalition was unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and second by Ken Fowler. The resolution is made part of the minutes by attachment.

iii. Coordinated Transportation

Brent Lanford reported that the coordinated transportation program is in the process of transitioning from two providers to one for Region 6. The transportation provider Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council Inc. will handle all counties in the middle Georgia region. This is for informational purposes only.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Report

Michelle Grembowski 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. Ms. Grembowski stated that the LUCA process is underway and that 24 LUCA packages have been received to date.

b. Executive Director's Report

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

Budget

Ms. Mathis stated that work is underway on the FY 2019 budget. One item that will be different will be a change to pass thru funds for the Care Coordination Services Program (CCSP) in Aging. The Georgia Department of Community Health will contract directly with the CCSP providers rather than with Area Agencies on Aging across the state. Going forward, Georgia Department of Community Health will contract with the Area Agencies on Aging for all intake screening and referrals for the Medicaid waiver programs.

Disaster Funding

Ms. Mathis reported that the Regional Commission received notification that the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration received disaster funding because of Hurricane Irma. The funds can be used for public infrastructure projects; more information to come on the application process.

EDA Revolving Loan Fund

Ms. Mathis reported that effective April 1, 2018, the EDA Revolving Loan Fund will have new reporting requirements.

Opportunity Zone Program

Ms. Mathis reported that as part of the federal tax reform package, the US Department of Treasury created an Opportunity Zone program that offers a federal tax incentive for private investment in distressed areas. There are 260 newly designated zones in Georgia, including areas of Macon-Bibb, Peach, and Wilkinson Counties.

Rural Transportation

Ms. Mathis reported that the House Transportation Committee Chair Kevin Tanner is reviewing issues with rural transit to develop strategies for the 2019-2020 General Assembly to consider. More details are expected in the future.

TSPLOST

Ms. Mathis stated that at the request of local governments the Regional Commission is conducting several Town Hall information sessions regarding TSPLOST.

Innovative Projects

Ms. Mathis reported that DCA has asked MGRC to provide information about innovative projects that the MGRC has completed in the region. This information will be compiled and shared with members of the General Assembly.

Council Member Training

Ms. Mathis reported that there are some training opportunities next week for new council members at the Carl Vinson Institute of Georgia. Please see Ms. Stanton if you are interested.

Workforce Division

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission serves as the fiscal agent for Macon-Bibb Workforce Development area. Effective July 1, 2018, the Workforce Program at the state level will move from being associated with the Georgia Department of Economic Development to the Technical College System of Georgia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next MGRC meeting will be May 10, 2018.
- Senior Day Expo – May 31, 2018

ADJOURN

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