

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, August 9, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Lee Slade
John Westmoreland
Richard Mullins
Derek Williams
Denese Shinholster

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Paul Chapman
Brent Lowe

HOUSTON COUNTY

Tommy Stalnaker
John Harley

JONES COUNTY

Francis Adams
Jimmy Roberts
Frank Duke
Ed Barbee

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Jim Manley

MONROE COUNTY

Dick Bazemore
Eric Wilson

PEACH COUNTY

Barbara Williams
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Henry Cravey
Tim Young

PUTNAM COUNTY

Walter Rocker
Gary Sanders
Billy Webster
Charles Williams

TWIGGS COUNTY

Kathryn Epps
Shannon Hart
Charles Williams

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy

MIDDLE GEORGIA

Nancy Nash

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GUESTS PRESENT:

Tonya Mole, Field Representative for DCA

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Mathis – Executive Director

Brent Lanford – Deputy Director

Greg Boike - Director of Public Administration

Jen Doran – Office Manager

Matt Garvin - Director of Finance

Michelle Grembowski – Director of Technology Services

Julie Hall - Director of Area Agency on Aging

Kimberly Lowe – Sr. Government Services Specialist

Kayleigh Sullivan – Sr. Government Services Specialist

Marissa Jackson - Government Services Specialist

Wil Cowart – GIS Analyst

Matt Beal – GIS Analyst

Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Robert Reichert called the August 9, 2018, meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Kim Stanton indicated that a quorum was present with 21 voting and 10 non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Monroe County Council Member Greg Tapley gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Council Chairman Robert Reichert welcomed everyone to the August 9, 2018, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

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

Tonya Mole, Field Representative for DCA

Laura Mathis introduced new staff members, Wil Cowart, GIS Analyst and Marissa Jackson, Government Services Specialist.

GUEST SPEAKER

Julie Hall, Director for the Area Agency on Aging introduced Abby Cox, Georgia Director of Aging Services. Ms. Cox thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak about the work of the Division of Aging Services. Ms. Cox talked about the vision of the Georgia Department of Human Services, “Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia”. She highlighted several state initiatives including the memory assessment clinics, one of which will be located in Macon-Bibb. Ms. Cox also discussed the senior hunger initiative and the Governor’s Older Adults Cabinet which brings together various agencies to address challenges facing older adults.

Chairman Reichert thanked Ms. Cox for her remarks.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2018, Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the June 14, 2018, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Frank Duke and second by Greg Tapley.

- b. Old Business

None

- c. New Business

- i. Local Assistance Requests

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

Community: Baldwin County

Project Description: Assistance with the preparation of a FY 2018 Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Community: Crawford County

Project Description: Assistance with applying for a firefighter's equipment grant.

Community: City of Forsyth

Project Description: Assistance with the procurement of architectural services and grant-writing related to a potential Workforce Development Center.

Community: City of Hawkinsville

Project Description: Assistance with applying for an EDGE grant.

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

- Technology Services deployed a new, refreshed website for the City of Perry.
- Peach County received \$30,305 from the Firehouse Subs Foundation to purchase extrication tools.
- Town of Danville received \$23,207 from the Assistance to Firefighters grants to purchase radios and turnout gear.
- Putnam Development Authority received a OneGeorgia Equity grant in the amount of \$446,552 to assist with site preparation and infrastructure improvements within the Eatonton-Putnam Industrial Park.
- Through the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition program 855 seniors received \$20.00 vouchers to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. To-date over \$17,000 in locally grown produce has been distributed throughout Middle Georgia. The Farmer's Markets run throughout the rest of August.
- The Georgia Academy for Economic Development is planning their 2019 class. Flyers are available on the front table. If you have any questions, please see Tonya Mole with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

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

ii. Resolution to Authorize an FTA Section 5310 Application

Matt Garvin reported that 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 already provides vital public transportation services to the following counties: Baldwin, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Macon-Bibb, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Twiggs and Wilkinson. Putnam County had not been providing transportation services to DHS Division of Aging Services clients but is requesting to begin transportation services to DHS Aging clients.

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 Putnam County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Applicant, while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), 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 Laura Mathis, Executive Director, is empowered to sign contracts on behalf of the Applicant, and that she 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 Eric Wilson and second by Shannon Hart.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Quarterly Financial Report for period ending June 30, 2018

Matt Garvin reported on the Quarterly Report for the year ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Garvin reported that the State Revenues are at 70 percent of budgeted revenues, local revenues are at

80 percent of budgeted revenues, federal revenues are at 76 percent of the budgeted revenues, and expenditures are at 93 percent of budget expenditures.

b. Census 2020 LUCA Process

Michelle Grembowski gave a brief update on the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. Ms. Grembowski stated that in preparation for the 2020 Census, each local government has the opportunity to participate in LUCA. LUCA is the only mechanism for reviewing and updating the address listing that the Census Bureau will use for distribution of the Census forms. Participation is at 100 percent by all local governments. She also stated that, as in years past, the Regional Commission is available to serve as LUCA Liaison and/or Reviewer for every jurisdiction in the region. Ms. Grembowski stated that all LUCA reviews that were completed by the Regional Commission have been submitted. More information about LUCA can be found at www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.

c. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Mathis presented the Executive Director's report with updates since the June meeting. She thanked Abby Cox for her remarks and her support over the years. She stated that the partnership with the Division of Aging Services has never been stronger.

Ms. Mathis stated that Attorney Kevin Brown was absent from tonight's meeting due to an unavoidable work conflict. He sends his regards.

Ms. Mathis stated that Middle Georgia Regional Commission is currently in discussions with Georgia Department of Human Services Coordinated Transportation program to establish a Pilot Project in Crawford County for food (grocery) delivery to senior citizens. Crawford County was selected due to the recent closure of the only grocery store in the county.

Ms. Mathis asked Matt Garvin, Finance Director, to come forward. Ms. Mathis stated that Middle Georgia Regional Commission received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 23rd consecutive year. She stated that GFOA not only evaluates the financial statements but also acknowledges the work of the individuals (Matt Garvin and Crystal Vaughn) in preparing the statements. The Council congratulated Mr. Garvin and Ms. Vaughn for their professional work.

Ms. Mathis stated that the entire team is working to close out fiscal year 2018 and launch a successful 2019. Activities include final reporting and deliverables under the 2018 contracts and execution of the new contracts and projects.

Ms. Mathis stated that the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) held a one-day strategic planning session on August 2. Middle Georgia was represented by Mayor Eric Wilson and Ms. Mathis. The primary goal of the session was to refine the purpose and role of the statewide association and to identify new statewide initiatives to pursue. Ms. Mathis stated that the House Rural Development Council is continuing its work on regional strategies for rural growth. She will be attending the meetings and will keep the council informed.

Ms. Mathis stated that she participated in the recent Air Force Sustainment Center Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony for General Lee Levy and the group welcomed General Gene Kirkland as the new commander. Ms. Mathis stated that General Ellen Pawlikowski, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, has announced her retirement as of September 1 and her plans to relocate to Middle Georgia.

Ms. Mathis stated that the management team is exploring new engagement strategies for the council and member governments. As previously reported, the Report of Staff Activities will continue to be prepared as an internal management tool and will be available upon request from any member. However, a new strategy for monthly reporting to council and quarterly outreach to local governments and partners will be deployed beginning in July. Ms. Mathis stated that outreach will be electronic and in print. Hopefully, the new tools will provide relevant information and be easier to understand.

Over the past month, Ms. Mathis and a working group from the Aging department have been working on a re-design of the Aging program. Ms. Mathis stated that one reason for this was the change in funding for nursing home transitions and screening/referrals for additional clients. Ms. Mathis stated that the process has been positive and well-received. Additional information will be provided as the plan moves forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. MGRC Council Meeting September 13, 2018
- b. MGRC Annual Meeting October 11, 2018 – Lake Tobesofkee
- c. Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Conference November 7 – 9, 2018, St. Simons, Georgia
- d. Council Meeting November 1, 2018 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the August Council meeting was adjourned until September 13, 2018.