

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Johnny Westmoreland
Richard Mullins
Denese Shinholster
Lee Slade
Derek Williams

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Jay Andrews
Charlie Westberry
Paul Chapman

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
Georgia Slappey
Clifford Holmes

JONES COUNTY

Jimmy Roberts
Frank Duke
Francis Adams

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

none

MONROE COUNTY

Gregory Tapley
Dick Bazemore
Edd Norris

Eric Wilson

PEACH COUNTY

James Khoury
Martin Moseley
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Henry Cravey

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster
Walter Rocker
Paul Van Haute
Gary Sanders

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart
Tracy Jackson
Ken Fowler

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy
Mark Dupree
Emma Bacon

MIDDLE GEORGIA

Charles Sims

GUESTS PRESENT:

Slayten Carter - Field Representative for Austin Scott

Tonya Mole - Field Representative for DCA

Greg Ziesenhene - Field Representative for Senator David Perdue

Rebecca Rocker - wife of Mayor Walter Rocker

Saralyn Stafford - Carl Vinson Institute of Government

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Mathis – Executive Director

Brent Lanford – Deputy Director

Kevin Brown – Attorney

Matt Beal – GIS Analyst

Greg Boike – Director of Public Administration

Jen Doran – Office Manager

Matt Garvin – Director of Finance

Terrilyn Hannah – Director of Workforce Development

Marissa Jackson - Government Services Specialist

Kimberly Lowe – Senior Government Services Specialist

Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Council Chairman Dick Bazemore called the September 13, 2018, meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

OPENING CEREMONIES

- a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Houston County Council Member Clifford Holmes gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Vice Council Chairman Dick Bazemore welcomed everyone to the September 13, 2018, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

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

Slayten Carter - Field Representative for Austin Scott
Tonya Mole - Field Representative for DCA
Greg Ziesenhene - Field Representative for Senator David Perdue
Rebecca Rocker, wife of Mayor Walter Rocker
Saralyn Stafford - Carl Vinson Institute of Government

GUEST SPEAKER

Laura Mathis introduced Saralyn Stafford, Rural Development Manager, Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Saralyn Stafford thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak about the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Ms. Stafford expressed the importance of connecting local communities with rural initiatives coordinated by the university and its public service and outreach units like the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Ms. Stafford recognized the experience and knowledge in rural development with the outreach and public service at the University of Georgia.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2018, Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the August 9, 2018, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Eric Wilson and second by Mark Dupree.

b. Old Business

i. Resolution in Honor of Butch Hall

Vice Council Chairman Dick Bazemore reported that Pulaski County Sole Commissioner Butch Hall resigned his position effective August 8, 2018. At Council's direction, staff prepared a resolution in recognition of his service.

WHEREAS, M.A. "Butch" Hall has devoted nearly five decades of his life in public service to the citizens of Hawkinsville, Pulaski County and the communities of greater Middle Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall served three terms as a City Commissioner for the City of Hawkinsville, starting January 1, 1979, serving with faith and dedication, until December 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall returned to public service in 2013 after being elected by the citizens of Pulaski County to serve as Sole Commissioner, a post he upheld with honor and distinction until the occasion of his request to retire from office on August 8, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall has set the standard for excellence in county leadership by participating in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy, attaining the professional designation of Certified County Commissioner and earning certifications in the fields of Community Development and County Operations and Management; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall has championed regional planning and development for the communities of Middle Georgia, having served on staff at the former Heart of Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission and, since 1996, as a member and immediate past Chair of the Council for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, through his long tenure of public service, Mr. Hall has earned the respect and admiration of not only his constituents and staff but also his peers and cohorts throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff and Council wish to express their great appreciation to Mr. Hall for his longtime support and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council and staff of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission congratulate M.A. "Butch" Hall upon the completion of his career in public service and extend their warmest of wishes to him and his wife, Pat, for continued wellness, prosperity and happiness in future endeavors.

The resolution recognizing Butch Hall was unanimously approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and second by Lee Slade.

c. New Business

i. Local Assistance Requests

Marissa Jackson presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the September Council meeting:

Community: **Baldwin County**
Project Description: Assistance with the submission of a grant application for GDOT Transportation Alternatives Program.

Community: **Macon-Bibb County**
Project Description: Assistance with the submission of a grant application for Project Mercury.

Community: **Town of Toombsboro**
Project Description: Assistance with the Town of Toombsboro's budget for 2019.

Community: **Twiggs County**
Project Description: Assistance with updating the Twiggs County Personnel Policy Manual.

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

ii. DHS Coordinated Transportation (Jasper County)

Brent Lanford reported Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) is responsible for the management and oversight of subcontractors providing human services-based transportation in Middle Georgia (Region 6). Currently, MGRC contracts with Macon-Bibb EOC to provide these services to clients of the Governor's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (GVRA), one of several human-services programs participating in the Coordinated Transportation program.

MGRC has been informed that certain GVRA clients are not receiving transportation services because they live in Jasper County (Region 5) but receive vocational rehabilitation services in Putnam County (Region 6). Consequently, the DHS Regional Transportation Offices (RTOs) and Regional Commissions in Regions 5 and 6 have discussed permitting Region 6 subcontractor, Macon-Bibb EOC, to provide transportation service for these GVRA clients. Staff recommends ratifying the selection of MGRC as the transportation provider for the Jasper County GVRA clients who are served in Putnam County.

Approval of the joint request from DHS Regions 5 and 6 to permit Macon-Bibb EOC to provide human services-based transportation services for select GVRA clients living in Jasper County as presented was unanimously approved on a motion by Clifford Holmes and second by Ken Fowler.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Mathis thanked Saralyn Stafford for speaking at the Council meeting.

- Ms. Mathis reported that the auditors from McNair, McLemore & Middlebrooks are completing their Regional Commission audit this week.
- The Budget, Audit & Personnel Committee meeting has been scheduled for late October to review the audit and to consider other matters.
- Ms. Mathis reported that Council approved, at the June meeting, a Wellness Program for staff that includes an incentive gift card for reaching Humana Silver Status by Labor Day and that 97 percent of staff achieved this goal.
- Attorney Kevin Brown provided Open Records/Open Meetings training to staff on September 22.
- Ms. Mathis reported that there may be some additional opportunities for the Regional Commission in rural transportation, including non-emergency medical transportation. More information may be available in the coming months.
- The invitations for the MGRC Annual meeting at Lake Tobesofkee have been mailed and plans are being finalized.
- The third cohort of Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions will be commissioned on September 20. Nineteen members from across the region completed the seven-month program including Regional Commission council members Emma Bacon and Mark Dupree.
- Ms. Mathis reported that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission received two innovation awards from NADO. The first project is a work order system that was designed in-house and is used for the tax parcel maintenance contracts. The tool allows customers and staff to easily submit and monitor progress on work requests. The second project is related to the planning work associated with the Macon-Bibb County Urban Redevelopment Plan that was critical to receiving funding for Tindall Fields – a project led by the Macon Housing Authority and In-Fill Macon.
- The State of Georgia has awarded the Cities of Danville, Irwinton, Ivey, Roberta, and Crawford and Peach Counties, \$3.7 million in Community Development Block Grant funds. The projects include water and sewer, street/drainage and health department improvements and will impact more than 6,000 middle Georgia residents. Ms. Mathis stated that the Regional Commission prepared the competitive applications and will work with the local governments on the administration and implementation of the projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Executive Committee Meeting – September 24, 2018
- b. Next Council Meeting (Annual Meeting) October 11, 2018, Lake Tobesofkee
- c. Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Conference, November 7 – 9, 2018, Savannah, Georgia
- d. Council meeting November 1, 2018 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

ADJOURN

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