

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Lee Slade
Richard Mullins
Johnny Westmoreland
Denese Shinholster

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Hill Bentley
Paul Chapman
Brent Lowe

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley
Tommy Stalnaker
Clifford Holmes
George Slappey

JONES COUNTY

Frank Duke
Francis Adams
Ed Barbee
Chris Weidner

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Robert Reichert
Juawn Jackson
Darius Maynard
Dominique Johnson
Al Tillman

MONROE COUNTY

Richard Bazemore
Eric Wilson
Melvin Lawrence
Greg Tapley

PEACH COUNTY

Martin Moseley
James Khoury
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Henry Cravey

PUTNAM COUNTY

Walter Rocker
Billy Webster
Daniel Kelhoffer

TWIGGS COUNTY

Ken Fowler
Shannon Hart

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy
Emma Bacon

MIDDLE GEORGIA

James Vaughn
Charles Sims

GUESTS PRESENT:

Greg Ziesenhene - Field Representative for Senator David Perdue

Emily Davis – Baldwin County Commissioner

Chris Hewett – City of Forsyth Councilmember

STAFF PRESENT:

Keri Asbell – MDSQ Options Counselor

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 Development

Marissa Jackson - Government Services Specialist

Brent Lanford – Deputy Director

Susan Landfried - Government Services Specialist

Kimberly Lowe – Senior Government Services Specialist

Laura Mathis – Executive Director

Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

Roland Williams – ADRC Counselor

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Robert Reichert called the March 14, 2019, 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 12 non-voting members.

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

Chairman Reichert welcomed everyone to the March 14, 2019, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

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

Greg Ziesenhene - Field Representative for Senator David Perdue
Emily Davis – Baldwin County Commissioner
Chris Hewett – City of Forsyth Councilmember

Ms. Mathis also introduced Keri Asbell and Roland Williams, two members of the Aging staff, who were in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chairman Reichert introduced Mayor Matt Seale, City of Ocilla. Mayor Seale wanted to shine a spotlight on Ocilla, so he started brainstorming on ways to do it. As a result, he started Small-Town Podcast, which not only spotlights Ocilla but also takes him to different cities interviewing local officials and folks discussing stories of their small towns. Mayor Seale has served as Mayor of Ocilla since 2015. In addition to this podcast project and his regular duties as Mayor, he serves on the Georgia Municipal Association’s Legislative Policy Council and Board of Directors. He is also on the Council and the Executive Committee of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.

Mayor Seale spoke about his background and how the podcast was developed. He stated that he is interested in featuring small towns with a population less than 10,000. Since 18 of the 21 cities of Middle Georgia are under 10,000 people, there is an opportunity to feature some of the cities on future podcasts. More information is available at www.smalltownpodcast.com. Mayor Matt Seale thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

Chairman Reichert thanked Mayor Seale for his remarks.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2019, Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the February 14, 2019, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Billy Webster and second by Greg Tapley.

- b. Old Business

None

c. New Business

1. Report from the Nominating Committee

Tommy Stalnaker reported that the Nominating Committee met on Monday, March 11. He thanked the committee members Denese Shinholster, Billy Webster, Barbara Williams, and Derek Williams for their participation.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee.

2018-2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dick Bazemore – Executive Committee

Chair, Council Vice Chair

Robert AB Reichert – Council Chair

Shannon Hart – Council Secretary

Johnny Westmoreland - Baldwin County

Charlie Westberry - Crawford County

George Slapney – Houston County

Ed Barbee - Jones County

Dominique Johnson - Macon-Bibb County

Eric Wilson - Monroe County

Barbara Williams- Peach County

Henry Cravey - Pulaski County

Walter Rucker - Putnam County

Ken Fowler- Twiggs County

Michael Gotell - Wilkinson County

James Vaughn - Regional

In addition, the Committee recommends that James Vaughn's appointment is listed as a full voting member rather than Ex-Officio, in accordance with the amended Bylaws.

Mr. Stalnaker opened the floor for nominations to the Executive Committee. Hearing none, nominations were closed. The Executive Committee for 2018-2020 as presented by the Nominating Committee was approved.

2. Chairman's Appointments

In accordance with the Bylaws, state appointees are now included as a category of membership on the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee and Aging Services Committee. Previously, James Vaughn was appointed as an Ex-Officio member of the Budget, Audit and Personnel Committee and Nancy Nash as an Ex-Officio member of the Aging Services Committee. Effective as of February 14, 2019, they will now fill the state appointee position on their respective committees. No action is required by the Council on these changes.

3. Local Assistance Requests

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

Community: **Crawford County**
Project Description: Assistance with the preparation of an Assistance to Firefighter Communities Grant.

Community: **Crawford County**
Project Description: Assistance with the preparation of a USDA Grant

Community: **Crawford County**
Project Description: Assistance with the job description for the County Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer.

Community: **City of Danville**
Project Description: Assistance with submitting a USDA Community Facilities Grant for tornado sirens.

Community: **City of Danville**
Project Description: Assistance with submitting a SAFER Grant.

Community: **City of Forsyth**
Project Description: Assist the CVB in revising and printing the Fox Hunt rack cards.

Community: **City of Forsyth**
Project Description: Assistance with updating the Urban Redevelopment Area along with Designations for Opportunity and Rural Zones.

Community: **Putnam County**
Project Description: Assistance with rewriting Chapters 28 and 66 of the Putnam County Code of Ordinances.

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

- James Johnson, Lisa Datoc, and Howard Scott, with the Workforce Development Department, completed the 120-hour National Career Development Association Facilitating Career Development Training.
- The Aging Department assisted with a Pet Assistance Program funded by the Department of Human Services. Senior Center and Home-Delivered Meals participants are receiving funds to purchase animal food and items for pet waste. The grant is allowing funding for 459 animals throughout all 11 counties.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by George Slappey and second by Clifford Holmes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Mathis thanked Mayor Seale for attending the Council meeting and sharing information about the Small-Town Podcast.

Rural Transit

Ms. Mathis reported that State Representative Kevin Tanner chaired the study commission to introduce to legislation to create the Georgia Department of Mobility and Innovation that would take the transit programs from various state agencies to a regional system. Ms. Mathis reported that the House passed HB511; it has been scheduled for a Senate committee hearing.

House Rural Council

Ms. Mathis reported that the House Rural Development Council introduced a legislative agenda but have not released any legislation that would impact Regional Commissions.

Workforce State Monitoring

Ms. Mathis reported that the Workforce Monitoring was completed at the end of February with five minor findings and a determination of no disallowed costs. Over the next few months, the Workforce team will address the items identified in the monitoring report.

DOAA Audit

Ms. Mathis reported that MGRC has submitted the required documents to the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) for the performance audit. The field visit from DOAA is scheduled for April 15.

Professional Development

In addition to the Workforce team members that were mentioned previously, Ms. Mathis reported that Carol Bunn in the Aging division completed the certification to become a certified counselor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Reichert reported that President Trump signed the legislation approving the lands bill that will expand the Ocmulgee National Monument making it a national park; it will be renamed Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park.

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Council Reichert reminded everyone about the upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon from March 22 – 31, 2019.

The next MGRC meeting will be on April 11, 2019.

ADJOURN

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