

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**THE VENUE • 319 ALBANY AVE., WEST. • PEARSON, GA 31642**  
**JANUARY 27, 2022**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:** Chair Joyce Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Evans called upon Anthony Payton to give the invocation, and he then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

<b><u>Atkinson County</u></b>	<b><u>Bacon County</u></b>	<b><u>Ben Hill County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Futch, Lace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foskey, Richard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Steve
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holt, Jason
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McKinnon, Janice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coley, Lisa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dunn, Jason
<b><u>Berrien County</u></b>	<b><u>Brantley County</u></b>	<b><u>Brooks County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gaskins, Ronnie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harris, Skipper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Folsom, Patrick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clayton, John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maefield, Barbara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan, Don
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart, Lisa	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deshazior, Zurich
<b><u>Charlton County</u></b>	<b><u>Clinch County</u></b>	<b><u>Coffee County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everett, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metts, Roger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dovers, AJ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blicht, Brooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Tony
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O'Quinn, Dana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardee, Willie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Adam
<b><u>Cook County</u></b>	<b><u>Echols County</u></b>	<b><u>Irwin County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purvis, Dwight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walker, Bobby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver, Scott
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke, Buddy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hudgins, Horace
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bennett, Derry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garner, Cheryl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Mona
<b><u>Lanier County</u></b>	<b><u>Lowndes County</u></b>	<b><u>Pierce County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fender, Dennis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evans, Joyce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bennett, Neal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darsey, Bill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miller-Cody, Vivian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooks, Keith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fitton, John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payton, Anthony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brannen, Andy
<b><u>Tift County</u></b>	<b><u>Turner County</u></b>	<b><u>Ware County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McBrayer, Tony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whiddon, Dana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thrift, Elmer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Julie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lumpkin, Sandra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James, Michael-Angelo
Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Giddens, Brandi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> King, Barbara

<b>Governor’s Office</b>	<b>Lt. Governor’s Office</b>	<b>Speaker’s Office</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lovein, Norman “Bo”	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone, Keith	Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daughtrey, Guy		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jones, Johnathon		

**Staff Present**

Backe, Elizabeth  
 Courson, Scott  
 Cribb, Lisa  
 Fowler, Megan  
 Highsmith, Wes  
 Lovett, Roberta  
 Strom, Chris  
 Strom, Rachel  
 Vining, Kim

**Guests Present**

Gore, James  
 Littleton, Jimmy  
 Maddox, Raphel  
 Tanner, Paul

**INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER:** Chair Evans invited the four new members in attendance to come forward and take their oaths as incoming SGRC council members. The four new members installed were: AJ Dovers, Coffee County Chairman; Dwight Purvis, Cook County Chairman; Horace Hudgins, Mayor of Ocilla; and Brandi Giddens, Turner County’s Private Sector representative.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:** Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the December minutes had been emailed to members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Mae field made a motion to approve the December 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS:** Chair Evans reminded those present that copies of the November and December 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Reports had been emailed to council members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Mae field made a motion to accept the November and December financial reports. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**REVAMP UPDATE:** SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Paul Tanner, a consultant with GDOT, to discuss the REVAMP Update. Mr. Tanner thanked the SGRC Council for the opportunity to present, and then he explained that REVAMP, formerly known as MAP21, stands for the Roadway Element Validation and Mapping Program. REVAMP is a partnership between GDOT, the state’s Regional Commissions and the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government working to improve Georgia’s public road network information through existing data and capturing changes from local governments. He briefly summarized Phase I of REVAMP and stated it was completed in January 2021. Phase 1 took over four years to complete. Phase 2 was initiated on January 21, 2021 and is currently about 60% complete. Phase 2 is a “capture” only phase. Phase 2 data capture focuses on school zone locations, speed limit zones, on-street parking type, sidewalk presence within a one-mile radius of schools, crosswalk

presence, number of turn lanes, and pedestrian signal presence. Mr. Tanner stated that RE-VAMP focuses on data quality and that improved data analytics could lead to improved traffic flow, freight movement and roadway safety. He completed the presentation by thanking the council again and asking if there were any questions from the audience.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT FOR FY2023 DHS COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:** Chair Evans called upon SGRC Transit/Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler to speak to the council. Ms. Fowler referred those present to a copy of the Resolution to Contract for FY2023 DHS Coordinated Transportation Services included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Fowler explained that this resolution would allow the RC to enter into a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services to provide transportation services and authorizes the Executive Director to execute said contract. Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Contract for FY2023 DHS Coordinated Transportation Services. Barbara King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT OF STAFF DISCLOSURES AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW:** Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to present the Report of Staff Disclosures as Required by State Law. Ms. Cribb referred those present to a copy of O.C.G.A 50-8-63 included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that this law requires the SGRC to annually report to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the council whether any Regional Commission employees transacted business with any local government during the previous calendar year. Ms. Cribb stated that for calendar year 2021, no Southern Georgia Regional Commission employees reported transacting business with any local governments. Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the Report of Staff Disclosures. Ronnie Gaskins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**REVIEW OF COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the council member meeting attendance report included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that the SGRC By-Laws state that a notice shall be mailed to any council member who misses three consecutive meetings during the fiscal year. For the private sector appointments, letters will be sent to the appointing officials as well as to the member. She also reminded those present that the council voted to stop notices of missed meetings in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. She then asked the council to consider whether they wanted to continue as 2021 and not send notices to any member who has missed three consecutive meetings or to re-start sending notices. Ronnie Gaskins made a motion not to send notices to council members who have missed three consecutive meetings in the fiscal year due to current ongoing COVID restrictions. Neal Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:**

**Grants:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb directed council members to the project status list in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb stated that the list includes the status of current projects the Community & Economic Development department has in progress. She encouraged those present to review the project list to see the scope of projects in progress throughout our region. She then advised them to contact SGRC Community & Economic Development staff regarding any project listed or potential projects they may be interested in for their communities.

**Planning:** SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe referred those present to a handout listing the various plans that local governments are required to submit, as well as the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Backe shared that RC Planning staff are currently working on Comprehensive Plan Updates for Bacon, Brooks and Pierce counties and Hazard Mitigation Updates for Bacon, Charlton, Pierce, and Ware counties. She encouraged council members to review the upcoming deadlines for their communities and contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

**Division Reports:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the division reports in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb asked those present to review the reports to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1.) **Recognition of Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Brantley, Charlton, Lowndes and Tift counties for having 100% representation at the council meeting.
- 2.) **ACCG Update:** James Everett stated that the 2022 ACCG Legislative Breakfast would be held Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am – 11:00am at the James H. Sloppy Floyd Building in Atlanta, GA.
- 3.) **GMA Update:** Julie Smith shared that the 2022 Newly Elected Officials training would be held at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center from March 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.) **2022 Lowndes County Bird Supper:** Chair Evans announced that the 2022 Lowndes County Bird Supper would be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta.
- 5.) **SGRC 101:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb shared that SGRC would host two SGRC 101 orientations for the region: Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the SGRC office in Waycross from 10:00am – 12:00pm and Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at the SGRC office in Valdosta from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. She encouraged any council member or elected official interested in learning about the programs and services the SGRC offers to its local governments to attend one of the sessions.
- 6.) **Meeting Notice:** Chair Evans announced that the next SGRC Council meeting would be held on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the SGRC office in Waycross.

**ADJOURN:** As there was no further business to conduct, Chair Evans asked Willie Hardee to bless the meal, and the meeting adjourned.

  
Joyce Evans, Chair

  
Lee Gowen, Vice Chair