

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
THE VENUE • 319 ALBANY AVE., WEST. • PEARSON, GA 31642
DECEMBER 9, 2021
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 James Everett to give the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>Atkinson County</u>	<u>Bacon County</u>	<u>Ben Hill County</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Futch, Lace	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Steve
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puckett, Jim
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McKinnon, Janice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coley, Lisa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dunn, Jason
<u>Berrien County</u>	<u>Brantley County</u>	<u>Brooks County</u>
<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"/> Dennard, Nancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart, Lisa	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deshazior, Zurich
<u>Charlton County</u>	<u>Clinch County</u>	<u>Coffee County</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everett, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metts, Roger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Oscar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardee, Willie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Tony
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O'Quinn, Dana	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Adam
<u>Cook County</u>	<u>Echols County</u>	<u>Irwin County</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rowe, Audie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walker, Bobby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver, Scott
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke, Buddy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seale, Matt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bennett, Derry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garner, Cheryl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Mona
<u>Lanier County</u>	<u>Lowndes County</u>	<u>Pierce County</u>
<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
<u>Tift County</u>	<u>Turner County</u>	<u>Ware County</u>
<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	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> King, Barbara

<u>Governor's Office</u>	<u>Lt. Governor's Office</u>	<u>Speaker's Office</u>
<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

Cribb, Lisa
 Highsmith, Wes
 Horton, James
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Rodgers, Kimberly
 Strom, Chris
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Beatty, Mike
 Black, Gary
 Douglas, Barbara
 Mclean, Elizabeth
 Ponsell, Gary
 Redding, Jody
 Valenti, Nick
 White, Charles

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER: Chair Evans invited John Clayton to come forward and take his oath as a new SGRC council member. Mr. Clayton will serve as the Berrien County Municipal representative and is the Mayor Pro-Tem for the city of Nashville.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the September minutes had been emailed to members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the September and October 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 King made a motion to accept the September and October financial reports. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021: Chair Evans introduced Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley, and Associates, LLC. Mr. Valenti began with a brief overview of the Fiscal Year Ended 2021 Audit for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Valenti stated that the audit was reviewed in depth during the Executive/Audit Committee meeting, which preceded the council meeting. Mr. Valenti noted that the financial statements are materially correct and are a reliable and fair representation of the financial position of the SGRC. Mr. Valenti also stated that a few hard copies of the audit were available at the sign-in table should any council member want to review it. Chair Evans asked for questions from the council; there being none, she called for a motion to accept the SGRC Annual Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2021. Matt Seale made a motion to accept the annual audit. Ronnie Gaskins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CREATING A CLIMATE OF SUCCESS: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb introduced Mike Beatty, managing partner of The Beatty Team, to discuss the services they provide. The Beatty Team's mission is to partner with communities to help create a climate of success for youth, families, and businesses. They provide specialized assistance to communities to help design implementation strategies that bring together all elements and efforts of the local community to create dynamic, livable communities.

AARP PRESENTATION – AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION VIDEO MESSAGE FROM AARP GA STATE DIRECTOR: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Aging Communications/Outreach Specialist Kimberly Rodgers to introduce the AARP Presentation Video. Ms. Rodgers explained that members from AARP were not able to attend the meeting in person so instead sent a video. In the video, Deborah Tyler-Horton, Georgia Director of AARP Livable Communities, congratulated the SGRC and its eighteen counties on their accomplishment of being the second region in the nation to receive an AARP Livable Communities Designation. Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and communities means that a community's elected leadership has committed to actively work with residents and local advocates to make their town, city, county, or state an age-friendly place to live. Ms. Tyler-Horton also shared that each of the eighteen counties would receive a certificate of enrollment and a welcome letter from the AARP. She concluded the video by again congratulating the SGRC and its eighteen counties.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT FOR AGING SERVICES: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Aging Communications/Outreach Specialist Kimberly Rodgers to present the Resolution to Contract for Aging Services. Ms. Rodgers referred those present to a copy of a resolution to enter into a contract for aging services included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Rodgers explained that the resolution authorizes the SGRC to enter into a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services for FY2023. Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the resolution to enter into a contract for aging services. Scott Carver seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) ANNUAL UPDATE: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Community & Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs to present the CEDS Annual Update. Ms. Hobbs referred council members to a copy of the Resolution of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Update (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the CEDS annual update reports the progress on economic activities and conditions in the region and adjusts the 2018-2022 five-year plan. Ms. Hobbs stated that the yearly update also reports on changing economic development conditions in the region and identifies projects for Economic Development Administration funding consideration. She then shared that once the report is submitted to DCA, council members will be able to review the report on the SGRC website (www.sgrc.us). Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the resolution of the CEDS Annual Update. Barbara Mæfield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Community & Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs directed council members to the project status list in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the list includes the status of current projects the Community &

Economic Development department has in progress. She informed those present that Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) applications will be due by January 31, 2022 and that CDBG applications will be due by June 3, 2022. Ms. Hobbs also advised those present to contact SGRC Community & Economic Development staff regarding projects listed on the status list or any potential projects they may be interested in for their communities.

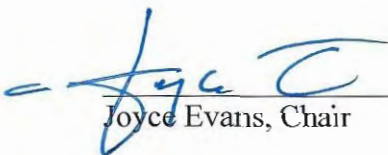
Planning: SGRC Senior Planner James Horton referred those present to a handout listing the various plans that local governments are required to submit, as well as the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Horton encouraged council members to review the upcoming 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.

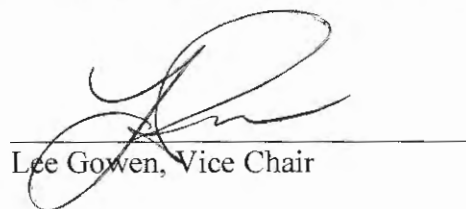
QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests:** Chair Evans recognized Gary Black, Georgia Ag Commissioner and candidate for U.S. Senate; Jody Redding, Director of Field Operations for the Office of Governor Brian Kemp; Charles White from the Office of U.S. Congressman Austin Scott; and John Quarterman from the Suwannee Riverkeeper, and thanked them all for attending the SGRC council meeting.
- 2.) **Meeting Notice:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb announced the next SGRC Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2022. The location of the meeting will be announced at a later date. She also stated that a copy of the 2022 SGRC Council meeting schedule was included in the member packets.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Lee Gowen, Vice Chair