

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC OFFICE • 1725 S. GEORGIA PARKWAY, W. • WAYCROSS, GA 31503
SEPTEMBER 22, 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 asked James Everett to give the invocation, and then he 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"/> Willis, Buddy	<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"/> Stone, Robbie	<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"/> Morgan, Don
<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"/> Dovers, AJ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blich, Brooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Tony
Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardee, Willie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Adam
<u>Cook County</u>	<u>Echols County</u>	<u>Irwin County</u>
<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
<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"/> Paul, Steven
<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-An- gelo
Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Giddens, Brandi	<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

Backe, Elizabeth
 Cribb, Lisa
 Fowler, Megan
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Lovett, Roberta
 Martin, Amy
 Rodgers, Kimberly
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Cherry, Jamelle
 Cowart, Ben
 Davenport, Emily
 Griner, Robert
 Hancock, Hayden
 James, Jaelyn
 Maddox, Raphel
 Rubenbauer, Jason
 Saxon, Joe
 Wright, Curtis

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING:

Chair Evans reminded those present that the August 25, 2022 council meeting minutes were emailed to members for their review (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the minutes, and Roger Metts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JULY 2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

Chair Evans referred those present to a copy of the July 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Report included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara King made a motion to accept the July 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Report. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GEFA PRESENTATION:

SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb introduced Ben Cowart, Senior External Affairs Manager with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), to speak about their programs and funding opportunities for local governments. Mr. Cowart shared a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). He gave an overview of GEFA's responsibilities and their different funding programs, then described the eligibility requirements for each. He stated that GEFA provides low-interest loans to local governments for water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure improvements. In addition to funding, GEFA also manages energy efficiency and renewable energy programs; and manages and monitors state-owned fuel storage tanks. Mr. Cowart also updated the council on the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding that will provide GEFA with additional funding over the next five years for energy and water projects. He then shared the various types of funding opportunities for both energy and water resources. Mr. Cowart ended his presentation by answer-

ing questions from the audience. He thanked the council for their time and encouraged those interested in any of GEFA's loan programs to contact him or visit their website at gefa.georgia.gov for more information.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS): Chair Evans called on SGRC Deputy Executive Director of Governmental Services Kimberly Hobbs to present the Resolution for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Ms. Hobbs directed those present to the CEDS resolution in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She reminded those present that she gave a presentation on the draft CEDS proposal at the August 2022 meeting. She stated that the CEDS is a strategic regional economic development plan developed through a locally based, strategy-driven economic development planning process. The CEDS provides a summary background of the economic development conditions in the region; analyzes the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; provides the implementation of goals and an action plan; establishes performance measures; and outlines a plan to ensure the economic resiliency of the region. Ms. Hobbs asked the council if there were questions regarding the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). There being none, Chair Evans asked for a motion to approve the plan. Michael-Angelo James made a motion to adopt the Resolution for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Barbara Mae field seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FY24 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 5303 AND 5304 GRANT APPLICATIONS: Chair Evans called SGRC Senior Transportation Planner Amy Martin to present the Resolutions for FY24 Federal Transit Administration 5303 and 5304 Grant Applications. Ms. Martin referred those present to copies of the 5303 and 5304 grant application resolutions in their council packets (copies attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that Section 5303 funds are Federally designated for metropolitan planning funding, and Section 5304 funds are for rural planning funding. The regional commission has received these funds in the past to do transit planning for the Valdosta urbanized area and the rural planning area in the other 17 regional counties. She then asked the council if they had questions about the 5303 or 5304 transportation resolution. There being none, she noted that each resolution would need separate council approvals.

Chair Evans then called for action on the FTA Section 5303 Grant Application resolution. Barbara Mae field made a motion to adopt the FY24 Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Grant Application Resolution. Michael-Angelo James seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Evans then called for action on the FTA Section 5304 Grant Application resolution. Michael-Angelo James made a motion to adopt the FY24 Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 Grant Application Resolution. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT FY24 GRANT APPLICATION (5311): Chair Evans called on SGRC Transit Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler to present the Resolution for Regional Transit FY24 Grant Administration (5311). Ms. Fowler referred those present to a copy of the 5311 resolution in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Fowler explained that the Federal

Transit Administration 5311 Rural Mass Transit resolution is to submit the grant application to fund rural public transit operations. Chair Evans called for action on the FTA Section 5311 Grant Application resolution. Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to adopt the FY2024 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Grant Application Resolution. Don Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Deputy Director of Governmental Services 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 department has in progress. She 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 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). Ms. Backe encouraged council members to review the upcoming deadlines for their communities and contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

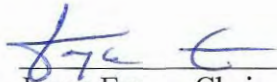
Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the division reports in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb asked those present to review the reports to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests:** Chair Evans recognized Emily Davenport, GMA District Representative, and thanked her for attending the SGRC council meeting.
- 2.) **Recognition of Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Charlton, Lowndes and Ware counties for having 100% representation at the council meeting.
- 3.) **ACCG Update:** James Everett stated that the 2022 Legislative Leadership Conference would be held September 28-30, 2022 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center.
- 4.) **GMA Update:** Emily Davenport shared with the council that the 2022 Fire Service Conference would be held September 26 – October 1, 2022 in Columbus, and the 2022 Hub Cities Initiative Fall Meeting would be held September 28-29, 2022 in Athens. She also shared that the GMA Fall District 11 Meeting would be held on October 20th at the Leroy Rogers Senior Center in Tifton, GA.
- 5.) **Area Officials Appreciation Evening:** SGRC Executive Director reminded those present that the Annual Area Officials Appreciation Evening would occur on Tuesday, October 12, 2022. The event would be held at The Farm in Adel, GA, beginning at 5:00 pm.

- 6.) **GARC Annual Conference:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb shared that the 2022 GARC Annual Conference would be held November 2-4, 2022 at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island (flyer included in council packets). She stated that, as usual, the SGRC would cover the registration fee for any council member and the registration fee plus lodging for any executive committee member. Ms. Cribb asked anyone interested in attending the GARC Annual Conference to contact Kim Vining.

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



Keith Stone, Secretary