

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC • 1725 S. Georgia Parkway, West • Waycross, GA
February 27, 2020
11:00 a.m.

WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Vice-Chair Lee Gowen called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice-Chair Gowen called upon James Maxwell 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hutto, Andy	<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"/> Maxwell, James
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scarbrough, Taylor	<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"/> Jowers, Johnny W.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kennedy, Tom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moore, Bob
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"/> Lane, Jeff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petty, Kenneth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whitley, Joey
<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"/> Grissom, Kevin
<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"/> Thompson, Grady	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denham, Nick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nelson, Carlos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Julie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lumpkin, Sandra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael-Angelo James
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marlowe, Brian	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

Courson, Scott
 Cribb, Lisa
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Hull, Corey
 Rodgers, Kimberly
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Bennett, Latrice
 Byrd, Eva
 Dyke, Jana
 Habersham, Myrtle
 James, Jaclyn
 McBrayer, Tony
 Moore, Darrell
 Morgan, Marquise
 Rubenbauer, Jason
 Smith, Ashley
 Wirth, Tom

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vice-Chair Gowen invited the newly appointed official to come forward and take his oath as a new SGRC council member. The new council member installed was Larry Taylor, Mayor, City of Alma.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2020 MEETING MINUTES: Vice-Chair Gowen reminded those present that a copy of the January 23, 2020 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to approve the minutes. Carlos Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY 2020 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Vice-Chair Gowen reminded those present that a copy of the January 2020 Revenue and Expenditure Report 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 January financial reports. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF AGE FRIENDLY/LIVABLE COMMUNITY PROGRAM: SGRC Aging Program Director Scott Courson introduced speaker Myrtle Habersham, AARP Georgia Ambassador. Ms. Habersham thanked the RC council for welcoming her to discuss the AARP Age Friendly/Livable Community Program. She referred those present to a handout in their packets highlighting this program (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). The AARP Network of Age-Friendly communities consists of towns and counties throughout the United States. This program is designed to help older residents live easily and comfortably in their homes. Ms. Habersham explained that the AARP works with nonprofit groups, citizen activists, business leaders, and people age 50+ to raise awareness about the need for Age-Friendly housing, transportation, and quality of life options.

Ms. Habersham shared that in the State of Georgia there are six communities enrolled in the network of Age-Friendly Community Program. She expressed her hopes that her presentation

can help show the need for communities to have access to the benefits and advantages of participation in the program. Ms. Habersham stated that in Georgia, as of May 2016 the total population was 9,992,167; of this population, 11.5% were households with a 65+ member and these numbers are rising every year. She continued with an explanation of the program and how to determine if your community is ready to start enrolling and planning to become an age-friendly community. She then explained the different phases of designation: application, planning, and implementation; that communities and their leaders will complete to become an AARP Age-Friendly Community. Ms. Habersham answered questions from the audience, and then shared her contact information and encouraged all interested community leaders to contact her.

INTRODUCTION TO AGING SERVICES: Vice-Chair Gowen introduced SGRC Aging Communications/Outreach Specialist Kimberly Rodgers. Ms. Rodgers referred those present to a pamphlet in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She shared with the council resources available through the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The RC AAA's "mission is to develop, provide, coordinate, and advocate for services that assist older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers." Ms. Rodgers asked all those present to share the AAA contact information and encouraged all to call 1-888-73-AGING with questions about any of the aging services and programs offered.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO ENTER CONTRACT FOR DHS COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION FY21: SGRC Transportation Director Corey Hull referred those present to a copy of a Resolution to enter into contract for DHS Coordinated Transportation for FY21 (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Hull explained this resolution is to allow the SGRC to renew a contract with DHS for the FY21 year to provide transportation services to the SGRC's eighteen county region. Grady Thompson made a motion to approve the resolution. Carlos Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Community and Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs referred those present to a copy of the project status list included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the project status list shows projects that have been funded and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. She told the council that the SGRC Community and Economic Development staff were in full swing this CDBG season.

Planning: SGRC Community and Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs continued with the Planning updates. She 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. Hobbs then encouraged anyone with questions regarding upcoming deadlines for communities to contact SGRC Planning staff.

Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the RC division reports included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that the division reports will be a part of the member packets each month to give an update on each divisions' activities. She asked those present to review the reports each month to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

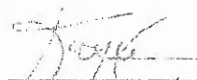
QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **ACCG Update:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb stated that a majority of the county council members were in Atlanta at the Capital Connection Conference. Ms. Cribb reported the Life Long Training Academy will be March 12-13 at the UGA campus in Tifton. She also stated that the ACCG Annual Conference will be April 24-27 in Savannah.
- 2.) **GMA Update:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb gave an update on GMA activities. Ms. Cribb reported that a Newly Elected Officials class will be March 4-6th in Athens; the Robert E. Knox Leadership Institute will be held April 1-4th in Young Harris; Georgia Cities Week will begin April 19th. Ms. Cribb also shared that registration will open in early March for the GMA Annual Convention being held in Savannah in June.
- 3.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Vice-Chair Gowen recognized Darrell Moore, Executive Director of VSU Center for South Georgia Regional Impact. He then announced that Bacon, Echols, and Pierce Counties had 100% representation at the council meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
- 4.) **Service Award:** Vice-Chair Gowen presented SGRC Aging Director Scott Courson with a plaque for 20 years of dedicated service to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission and commended him for his service.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Vice-Chair Gowen called upon SGRC Assistant Director Chris Strom to discuss the March 26th meeting. Mr. Strom explained that the meeting for March will be held in Valdosta at the Valdosta City Hall Annex followed by a guided tour of the new SGRC Valdosta office that is still under construction. He shared that the construction is going according to schedule, and this tour would give the council and guests an opportunity to see the progress to date.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Lee Gowen, Vice-Chair