

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
January 28, 2021
11:00 a.m.**

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

PROTOCOL FOR VIRTUAL MEETING: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to review the procedures to be used during the conference call. Ms. Cribb explained to all that called in to make sure they: mute their phone when not speaking; state their name when making a motion or second; and unmute their phone to make motions/seconds, to participate in discussions, and to vote.

ROLL CALL: Chair Evans asked SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom to call the roll. Mr. Strom stated that he would call each council member’s name (by county). He asked that council members respond with “here or present” so a quorum could be determined. After calling the roll, he asked that any guests and staff present to state their name. Results are shown below in the table.

<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"/> Folsom, Patrick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scarborough, 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"/> Paulk, Oscar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardee, Willie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moore, Bob
Vacant	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"/> Petty, Kenneth	<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"/> 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

Backe, Elizabeth
 Courson, Scott
 Cribb, Lisa
 Dorsey, Rex
 Fowler, Megan
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Hull, Corey
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Strom, Rachel
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Lane, Kelly
 Rubenbauer, Jason
 Tooley, Sandra
 Valenti, Nick
 Westberry, Diane

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chair Evans introduced the newly appointed officials and read aloud the oath and each new member verbally agreed to uphold the oath as new SGRC council members. SGRC council members installed were: Oscar Paulk, Chairman, Coffee County Board of Commissioners; Audie Rowe, Chairman, Cook County Board of Commissioners; Scott Carver, Chairman, Irwin County Board of Commissioners; Keith Brooks, Councilmember, City of Blackshear; Tony McBrayer, Chairman, Tift County Board of Commissioners; Dana Whiddon, Vice-Chair, Turner County Board of Commissioners; and Elmer Thrift, Chairman, Ware County Board of Commissioners.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the December 10, 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. Barbara King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the November and December 2020 Revenue and Expenditure Reports had been emailed to council members and included in their council packets (copies attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the November and December financial reports. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020: Chair Evans introduced Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley, and Associates, LLC. Mr. Valenti began with a brief overview of the Fiscal Year Ended 2020 audit for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Valenti stated the audit was reviewed in depth during the Executive/Audit Committee meeting which preceded the council meeting. Mr. Valenti stated that the financial statements are a reliable and fair representation of the financial position of the SGRC. With no questions from the council, Chair Evans called for a motion to accept the SGRC Annual Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2020. Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the audit. Barbara King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SALE OF SAVANNAH AVE. PROPERTY: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom referred those present to a copy of the Resolution of the Sale of Savannah Ave. property included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Strom shared that staff has completed moving out of the Savannah Ave. building and are in the new building on Carlton Adams Drive. He reminded the council that the intention had been to sell the Savannah Ave. property and put that income towards the payment of the loan for the new office building. The Savannah Ave. property consists of three tracts for a total of .85 acres and the building. Mr. Strom stated Lowndes County DPH has been interested in the Savannah Ave. property. In May 2017, SGRC had the property appraised and that appraisal came back with a value of \$219,000. Lowndes County has tentatively agreed to purchase the property for the appraised value of \$219,000. Mr. Strom shared Lowndes County and RC attorneys have been in contact to prepare for this transaction. Mr. Strom told the council that the first step would be to ask the council to approve the sale of the property at 327 W. Savannah Ave. with .85 acres for a sale price of \$219,000 to Lowndes County. Taylor Scarbrough made a motion to approve the Sale of the Savannah Ave. property to Lowndes County for the appraised value of \$219,000. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF STAFF DISCLOSURES AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW: SGRC Executive Director Lisa 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 2020, no employees of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission reported transacting business with any local governments. Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to accept this report of staff disclosures. Willie Hardee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT CONTRACT: SGRC Lending Director Rex Dorsey referred those present to a copy of the Resolution to Execute Professional Services and Management Contract (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Dorsey explained this is a renewal of the Professional and Management contract between SGRC and the Southern Georgia Area Development Corporation, Inc., a Certified Development Corporation (CDC). This is a five-year contract and is reviewed by SBA for approval. Barbara Maefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Execute Professional Services and Management Contract. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT FOR FY2022 DHS COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION:

SGRC Transit/Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler referred those present to a copy of the Resolution to Contract for FY2022 DHS Coordinated Human Services Transportation included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Fowler explained this resolution will allow the RC to enter into a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services for the provision of transportation services and authorizes the Executive Director to execute said contract. Janice McKinnon made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Contract for FY2022 DHS Coordinated Human Services Transportation. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF ADDENDUM TO SGRC PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSIT:

SGRC Transportation and Environmental Director Corey Hull referred those present to a copy of the Addendum to SGRC Procurement Policy for Regional Public Transit (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Hull stated this is the first step by the Regional Commission in beginning to operate a regional public transit system. This regional transit program has been discussed and offered to all counties in the SGRC region. Fourteen of the eighteen counties in the RC have opted-in to a regional public transit system; Ben Hill, Clinch, Echols, and Lanier counties have not opted-in to the regional transit system. This addendum will add a regional public transit procurement policy to the current SGRC procurement policy. Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to adopt the Addendum to SGRC Procurement Policy for Regional Public Transit. Vivian Miller-Cody 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 when a council member misses three consecutive meetings during the fiscal year, a notice shall be mailed to the council member. For the private sector appointments, letters will be sent to the appointing officials as well as to the member. Ms. Cribb stated that she spoke with the Executive Committee at their meeting on January 27, 2021. She discussed the possibility of allowing an exception to the attendance policy due to current restrictions prompting meetings to be held virtually or by teleconference. The Executive Committee voted to allow an exception to the attendance policy while in a virtual meeting setting. Ms. Cribb explained that the exception will need to be approved by the council to take effect. Chair Evans asked for a motion to accept the exception to the Council Attendance while in a virtual meeting setting. Janice McKinnon made a motion to approve the exception to the Council Attendance. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. The 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 reminded those present the due date for CHIP grant applications is January 29th. She stated that staff is currently working on special disaster recovery funding through the CDBG program. These are mitigation funds for infrastructure grants. Berrien, Charlton, Coffee, Cook and Turner

counties are eligible for the disaster recovery funds. Ms. Hobbs shared that DCA will hold a virtual applicants workshop on February 11th and 12th. The due date for CDBG applications is June 4th and these are required to be submitted electronically through DCA's GRAAM portal. She advised those present to contact SGRC Community and Economic Development staff in regards to projects listed in the packet, or any potential projects that 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 stated that staff is currently working on Comprehensive Plan updates for Clinch, Ben Hill, Turner, Brantley, Lanier and Ware counties. She encouraged council members to review the schedule for upcoming deadlines for their communities and to contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

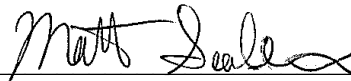
Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the division reports in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb asked those present to review the reports to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Evans asked if there were any questions, comments, or announcements.

ADJOURN: As there was no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.



Joyce Evans, Chair



Matt Seale, Secretary