

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Via Conference Call
OCTOBER 22, 2020
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"/> Maxwell, James
<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"/> Deshazor, 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"/> 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"/> 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	Vacant
<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
 Fowler, Megan
 Hendricks, Tonia
 Hull, Corey
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Strom, Rachel
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Haygood, Rusty
 Johnson, Alice
 Moore, Darrell

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the August 27, 2020 meeting minutes had been emailed to all council members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to approve the minutes. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2020 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS: Chair Evans referred those present to a copy of the August and September 2020 Revenue and Expenditure Reports included in their member packets (copies attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the August and September 2020 Revenue and Expenditure Reports. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Chair Evans introduced DCA Deputy Commissioner of Community Development and Finance, Rusty Haygood, to provide information on the CARES Act Funding and to give an update on DCA programs. Mr. Haygood thanked the council for the opportunity to speak. He began by explaining the CARES Act Funding which was passed in March 2020 that was a \$3 trillion deal through the DCA. One of the programs was the Paycheck Protection Act that was very beneficial to small businesses across the state. To date, Mr. Haygood reports, approximately 175,000 small business have received nearly \$15 billion in assistance. Another program that has helped Georgians is the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Through this fund, \$366 million was deployed in six weeks to local governments around the state. These funds were used to offset costs of COVID pandemic and to reimbursement communities for their response to the pandemic. Mr. Haygood took the

time to thank our local liaison for DCA, Kelly Lane, for fielding questions and serving as point of contact during the first line of review of what was submitted by local governments. Mr. Haygood continued with other CARES Act Funding programs. He stated that DCA has three funding sources from the CARES Act and gave brief explanations of these. Mr. Haygood stressed that the CARES Act Funding have been designed to help communities prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus. He also shared that DCA has rolled out the idea of implementing a new grant management system. This system will be for communities and regional commissions or private consultants working with communities to prepare applications and to administer successful rewards. It will be electronic and designed to have all forms in one system. Mr. Haygood thanked the council again for allowing him to give an update on DCA activities/programs.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) ANNUAL UPDATE: Chair Evans called on SGRC Grants Specialist Tonia Hendricks to present the CEDS Annual Update. Ms. Hendricks referred council members to a copy of the Resolution for Adoption of the Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Performance Report included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the CEDS performance report details the economic activities and conditions in the region. This year a section will be added to the report to address the COVID-19 impact on the southern region. When the report has been completed and submitted to DCA, members will be able to access a copy of the report on the SGRC website (www.sgrc.us). Barbara Maefield made a motion to approve the CEDS resolution. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL PLAN: Chair Evans called on SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe to speak to the council. Ms. Backe thanked Chair Evans, and referred those present to a copy of a resolution in their packet to adopt the 2020 Annual Implementation Program Report for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission Regional Plan (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). With no questions or other discussion, Buddy Duke made a motion to adopt the Annual Implementation Program Report for the Regional Plan. Zurich Deshazor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTIONS: Chair Evans called on SGRC Transportation Director Corey Hull to present the transportation resolutions. Mr. Hull referred those present to copies of resolutions 5303, 5304, and 5311 in the council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). He explained that Section 5303 funds are Federally designated for metropolitan planning funding and Section 5304 are for rural planning funding. The regional commission has received these funds in the past to do transit planning for the Valdosta Lowndes Metropolitan Planning Organization area and the rural planning area in the other 17 regional counties. Mr. Hull explained that Federal Transit Administration 5311 resolution is to submit the grant application for the funding of rural public transit operations. He then asked the council if there were any questions about any of the transportation resolutions. There being none, he noted that each of the three resolutions need separate approvals.

Chair Evans then called for action on the FTA Section 5303 resolution. Barbara Maefield made a motion to adopt the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Resolution. Matt

Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. She then called for action on the FTA Section 5304 resolution. Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 Resolution. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chair Evans called for action on the FTA Section 5311 resolution. Barbara Mae field made a motion to adopt the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Resolution. Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SAVANNAH AVENUE PROPERTY: Chair Evans called on SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom to discuss the Savannah Avenue property. Mr. Strom reminded members that with the construction on the new Valdosta building, the Savannah Avenue property and the McKey Street office would be offered for sale. He states that both properties have been appraised. The Savannah Avenue property appraised for \$219,000. There has been interest in the property from both the DPH and Lowndes County. Mr. Strom shares that two weeks prior to this council meeting, the Lowndes County commissioners instructed the county attorney to prepare the deed and purchase documents for the building. With this news, Mr. Strom states that the RC engaged with its attorney, Vince Settles, to cooperate with the Lowndes County attorney in preparation of documents. On October 23rd, the Lowndes County Commission will hold a meeting and on the agenda will be an item seeking approval for the purchase of the Savannah Avenue property to be made. If the item passes at the commissioners' meeting, then the RC will come before the RC Council at the December meeting for approval of the sale.

Mr. Strom continued with an update on the new building construction. He shared that the contractor has stated that November 9, 2020 the RC should receive a certificate of occupancy. Mr. Strom stated that the parking lot has been paved, landscaping completed, alarm and fire systems are operational, all mechanical inspections have been passed, and signage installed. The building's data network and phone network, along with necessary equipment is in place and operational. Mr. Strom shared that the move in of all staff is expected to be completed by December 1st. He asked if there were any questions and stated that the council will be receiving invitations to a ribbon cutting for the new building in the next few weeks.

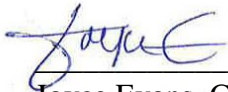
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Grants Specialist Tonia Hendricks directed the Council to the project status list in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Hendricks stated that the list includes the status of current programs the Community and Economic department has in progress. She informed the Council members that DCA had announced the recipients of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant awards. Our region, region 11, was awarded ten CDBGs, seven of which were written by the SGRC. She explained that now is the time to start working on re-submittals as well as new applications for 2021 CDBG grant opportunities.

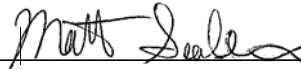
Planning: SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe referred those present to a handout listing the various plans that local governments are required to submit, as well as the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Backe encouraged council members to review the schedule 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.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Matt Seale, Secretary