

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**SPORTS COMPLEX AND CIVIC CENTER, PEARSON, GEORGIA**  
**March 28, 2019**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS:** Chair Joyce Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Evans called upon Matt Seale who gave the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

<b><u>Atkinson County</u></b>	<b><u>Bacon County</u></b>	<b><u>Ben Hill County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Futch, Lace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hutto, Andy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Steve
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Johnson, Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Murphy, Peggy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puckett, Jim
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McKinnon, Janice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coley, Lisa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dunn, Jason
<b><u>Berrien County</u></b>	<b><u>Brantley County</u></b>	<b><u>Brooks County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gaskins, Ronnie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harris, Skipper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maxwell, James
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richbourg, Michael	<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
<b><u>Charlton County</u></b>	<b><u>Clinch County</u></b>	<b><u>Coffee County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everett, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metts, Roger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kitchens, Jimmy
<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
<b><u>Cook County</u></b>	<b><u>Echols County</u></b>	<b><u>Irwin County</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parrish, Lindsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corbett, Stanley	<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
<b><u>Lanier County</u></b>	<b><u>Lowndes County</u></b>	<b><u>Pierce County</u></b>
<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
<b><u>Tift County</u></b>	<b><u>Turner County</u></b>	<b><u>Ware County</u></b>
<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"/> Knox, John
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marlowe, Brian	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> King, Barbara
<b><u>Governor's Office</u></b>	<b><u>Lt. Governor's Office</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker's Office</u></b>
<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  
Dorsey, Rex  
Frey, Michelle  
Strom, Chris  
Taft, Wanda  
Vining, Kim

**Guests Present**

Anderson, Tina  
Bennett, Latrice  
Carter, Matt  
Deshazior, Linda  
Ginty, Neil  
Harris, Toby  
James, Jaclyn  
Redding, Jody  
Smith, Jeff  
Stevenson, Molly  
Williams, Bettye

**INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Chair Evans invited the newly appointed officials to come forward and take their oath as new SGRC council members. SGRC council members installed were: Zurich Deshazior as the Private Appointment for Brooks County; Chairman Roger Metts of Clinch County; and Blackshear Mayor Kevin Grissom, representing Pierce County.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:** Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the February 28, 2019 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Janice McKinnon made a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY 2019 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:** Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the February 2019 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). James Maxwell made a motion to accept the February financial report. Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**CHAPARRAL BOATS PRESENTATION:** Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced speaker Jeff Smith, CFO of Chaparral Boats located in Nashville, GA. Mr. Smith started by giving a history of the company. He stated that Chaparral is a wholly owned subsidiary of Marine Products Corporation (MPC).

Chaparral Boats is part of the recreational boating industry. The industry, Mr. Smith stated, has an annual production of approximately 75,000 boats, and Chaparral manufactures about 5,500 of that industry total. He shared that the recreational boating industry has had a \$4.3 billion economic impact in the state of Georgia. Mr. Smith also said that Chaparral Boats partners with local businesses to have their parts and components manufactured locally. He shared that they have an in house cabinet shop that designs and builds the interior of their boats. The only component that is not a local product or manufactured by Chaparral are the engines.

Mr. Smith shared that their manufacturing facility in Nashville encompasses over one million square feet, making it, based on square footage, the largest single boat building location in the world. He said that they have a full time roster of over 800 employees, and are one of the largest employers in South Georgia. During their busy season, their employee number increases to over 1,000. Chaparral, Mr. Smith stated, is committed to their employees and offers many benefits

and incentives. They also offer a scholarship program for the children of their employees, and it has awarded over \$593,000 to date.

Mr. Smith shared that Senator David Perdue had recently visited and toured their plant in Nashville. Workforce development and trade were major topics during his visit. They discussed the impact of current tariffs on the recreational boating industry and its challenges for Chaparral. Mr. Smith thanked those present for allowing him to speak and invited the council to make an appointment to visit and tour Chaparral's facility in Nashville.

**PRESENTATION ON SGRC LENDING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:** SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Loan Program Director, Rex Dorsey to share information about the SGRC's loan programs. Mr. Dorsey stated that he would be sharing success stories with the council to highlight the loan program's impact on the region. The SGRC offers three types of loans: SBA 504 loan program, SBA 7A loan program, and EDA/USDA Rural Development Revolving Loan Program.

#### The Local Restaurant

The Local is a restaurant and bar located in Tifton. The owners saw a need for expansion to accommodate their growing business. They purchased and are currently renovating the Lankford Manor in downtown Tifton. Mr. Dorsey stated that the SGRC participated with Commercial Banking Company in an SBA 504 loan to purchase the building, land, and equipment. When completed, they will have created 14 new jobs.

#### Paw Paradise

Paw Paradise, an upscale boarding facility for dogs, cats, and exotic pets, is also located in Tifton. Paw Paradise was completed in early 2018. The project was funded by an SBA 504 loan and it was a "from the ground up" project. The SGRC partnered with Commercial Banking Company in the financing of the land, building, and equipment. The project created 10 jobs.

#### South Georgia Dance Company

South Georgia Dance Company in Adel started in a leased building and grew quickly. After purchasing a building in downtown Adel, the owner, with the help of the SGRC's revolving loan program, was able to transform the new space into a large dance studio with several classrooms and a retail space.

#### Anvil Trailer

Anvil Trailer in Douglas started in a leased facility, and sales grew so much that they needed more space and employees. With help from the SGRC's loan program, the owner was able to purchase the building and land he was leasing to expand his business. After the expansion, Anvil created and/or maintained 70 jobs.

### **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:**

**Grants:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb 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. Cribb 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 shared that the SGRC Community and Economic Development staff are in the process of completing 13 CDBG applications that are due Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Cribb informed council members that C&ED Director Kimberly

Hobbs would be sending out notices to the local cities, counties, and emergency management directors when FEMA announces its grant application period for the AFGs. FEMA does not have a set timeline, so the date has not been released. She also 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 informed the council of the following:

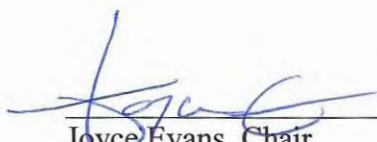
- Community Planning Institute offering a two-day training in Madison, GA on May 9-10.
- Communities interested in adding a broadband element to the comprehensive plan should contact the SGRC Planning department.
- Reminded all that the PlanFirst applications are due May 15<sup>th</sup>.

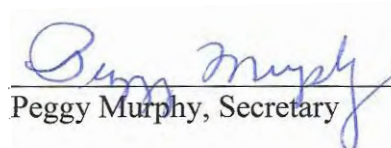
**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Dr. Tina Anderson from Wiregrass Technical College and Jody Redding from Senator Isakson's office. Chair Evans announced that Atkinson County, Brooks County, Echols County, Lowndes County, and Pierce County had 100% representation at the council meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
- 2.) **ACCG Update:** Chair Evans called upon James Everett to give an update on ACCG activities. Mr. Everett reminded those present that the 2019 ACCG Annual Conference will be April 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> in Savannah. He shared that this year's conference theme is: Keep Calm and Carry On.
- 3.) **GMA Update:** Chair Evans called on Matt Seale to give an update on GMA activities. Mr. Seale asked members to mark their calendars for the upcoming GMA Listening Session to be held in Folkston on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He reminded those present that the 2019 GMA Annual Convention will be held in Savannah, June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chair Evans called upon Willie Hardee to bless the meal.

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

  
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Joyce Evans, Chair

  
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Peggy Murphy, Secretary