

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SPORTS COMPLEX AND CIVIC CENTER, PEARSON, GEORGIA
JUNE 27, 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 Anthony Payton who gave 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"/> 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
<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"/> 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
<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"/> 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
<u>Cook County</u>	<u>Echols County</u>	<u>Irwin County</u>
<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
<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"/> Knox, John
<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
Cribb, Lisa
Dillard, JD
Hobbs, Kimberly
Hull, Corey
Lovett, Roberta
McLelland, Erica
Mills, Khafra
Strom, Chris
Strom, Rachel
Schultz, Kelly
Taft, Wanda
Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Barnes, James
Bennett, Latrice
Blaize, Haydn
Ginty, Neil
Green, Troy
Harris, Toby
James, Jaclyn
Johnson, Alice
Krolikowski, Jack
Pardo, Jennifer
Redding, Jody
Saxon, Joe
Shoun, Brian
Skinner, Algenia
Stevenson, Molly
Trainer, Leigh Ann
West, Diane
Westberry, Diane
White, Charles
Williams, Bettye

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 23, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the May 23, 2019 minutes had been emailed to council 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 MAY 2019 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the May 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). Lace Futch made a motion to accept the May financial report. Michael Richbourg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2020 BUDGET: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to a handout in their packets that summarized the proposed FY2020 budget (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She reminded the council that at the May council meeting SGRC Workforce Director Roberta Lovett presented a preliminary budget. She explained that the document before them today included more detail about specific line items in the FY2020 budget. Ms. Cribb explained this summary compares the proposed FY2020 budget with the amended FY2019 budget. She continued with an overview of the changes in revenue in the proposed FY2020 budget. Ms. Cribb pointed out that there is an additional \$176,981 budgeted increase in contracts with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She explained that is mostly due to an increase in the Best Management Practice contracts and the remaining in-kind for those contracts. Ms. Cribb stated that there are budgeted increases for the Aging department. New state legislature has added additional funding for the Aging Services Program. There are also budgeted increases in Workforce Development. In the FY2019 budget, there was money that was allocated for dislocated worker program within the Workforce Development that was not utilized. The money that was not utilized will be transferred to another Workforce program, Adult Services, for FY2020. She then stated that the

majority of the other increase in revenues has to do with the pass through to service providers. These are contracts for Aging, Workforce Development, and DHS Coordinated Transportation contracts; there are corresponding increases in expenditures for these amounts, also.

Mr. Cribb continued with an overview of the changes in the expenditures. She pointed out an increase in salaries of \$150,252. This increase is due to filling new positions. She explained that some of the Aging funding will be utilized for staff positions as well as some of the pass through contracts. Workforce Development will hire a part time intern to work on a special project in that department. Also, she explained some staff that was hired partial way through FY2019, are now budgeted for all of FY2020. Another increase in the expenditures, Ms. Cribb stated was an 11% budgeted increase in health insurance. This is an estimate, but the actual cost for health insurance will not be known until January 2020. Ms. Cribb pointed out that the SGRC is transitioning out of IT Programming as reflected by the loss in that department, and has been for the past several years. SGRC is no longer able sustain that program, that is why a loss is budgeted while IT Programming is being transitioned out.

Ms. Cribb reminded those present that the proposed FY2020 budget was emailed to all council members in the week before the council meeting and that this information was presented to the SGRC executive committee immediately prior to the council meeting. The executive committee, she explained, reviewed the budget and recommended approval to submit this budget to the full council. Ms. Cribb asked for questions from the council, and with none, Chair Evans called for a motion to approve the FY2020 budget. Janice McKinnon made a motion to approve the budget, and Barbara King seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2020 WORK PROGRAM: Chair Evans called upon RC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe to start the Work Program presentations. Ms. Backe referred those present to the draft work program in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes) for reference during the presentations. She reminded the council that each program director will provide an overview of the planned activities for their division for the upcoming fiscal year. The following program directors presented PowerPoint presentations to the council that highlighted the various activities for their department for the upcoming fiscal year: Elizabeth Backe, Planning Director; Kimberly Hobbs, Community and Economic Development Director; Corey Hull, Transportation & Environmental Director; and Rachel Strom, Geographic Information Systems Director.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2020 WORK PROGRAM: Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to their packet material detailing the FY2020 proposed work program and adoption resolution (copy attached and made part of these minutes). She reminded the council that the presentations were split over two council meetings, May and June, so that each program director could highlight the planned activities for FY2020. She explained that since the first presentations in May, there have been no changes proposed or made. This month, she stated, it is appropriate to ask the council for the adoption of this work program and asked for any questions from the council. With no questions, Chair Evans called for a motion to adopt the SGRC FY2020 work program. Janice McKinnon made a motion to adopt the RC FY2020 Work Program, and Barbara King seconded the motion. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF FEMA'S NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP):

SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Haidyn Blaize and Jack Krolikowski, both with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division Floodplain Management. Mr. Blaize began by explaining that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was established with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. The NFIP is a federal program that allows property owners in participating communities to purchase flood insurance as protection against flood losses, while requiring state and local governments to enforce floodplain management ordinances to help reduce future flood damage.

Participation in the NFIP is voluntary. Mr. Blaize stated that in Georgia, there are 565 participating communities from the State's 159 counties. He shared that to join NFIP, a community must complete an application; adopt a resolution of intent to participate and cooperate with FEMA; and adopt and submit a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum NFIP criteria. Mr. Blaize encouraged all present to visit the Flood Risk website at www.georgiadfirm.com to see a flood risk snapshot of their property. He asked all community leaders present to consider joining NFIP if they have not already. Mr. Blaize and Mr. Krolikowski asked if anyone had any questions about the NFIP. There being no questions or comments, they thanked the council for the opportunity to speak about the National Flood Insurance Program.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN FOR SOUTHERN GEORGIA: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Transportation Director Corey Hull to speak to the council. Mr. Hull stated that he emailed a draft of the Regional Transit Plan to all council members earlier in the week. He shared that the GDOT approached the SGRC in FY2019 about becoming a regional transit operator for all of Southern Georgia. The regional transit plan would replace the county Transit Development Plans (TDPs) that the SGRC currently creates for its counties.

Mr. Hull explained that the council will have until the August 22, 2019 meeting to review the draft Regional Transit Plan, and to make any suggestions or ask any questions. At the meeting on August 22nd, the council will vote to proceed, or not with the RTA. He stated that the full report is available on the SGRC website at www.sgrc.us. Mr. Hull asked if anyone had any questions to please contact him or JD Dillard.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION OF RC VALDOSTA OFFICE BUILDING: Chair Evans called upon Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom. Mr. Strom gave a brief review of the activities and steps that have been taken to get to the point of approval of the construction of the Valdosta office building.

- January 2018 – SGRC council approved the purchase of two acres of land on Carlton Adams Drive in Valdosta.
- June 2018 – SGRC council approved architectural and engineering services contracts for the design of a new office building to be located on Carlton Adams Drive.
- February – March 2019 – The design work, site engineering, and phase 1 environmental study were completed.
- February – March 2019 – Commercial Banking Company (CBC) became the potential lending partner based on their financing offer of 3.9% interest rate for the construction period and twelve years with a rate adjustment at that point. CBC also offered the same 3.9% rate for up to seven years to facilitate financing of furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

- April 2019 – Request for construction bids was announced. Six qualified responses were received.
- May 21, 2019 – Bid opening was conducted. Bid estimates ranged from \$2,662,470 to over \$3.8 million.

Mr. Strom shared that Kellerman Construction submitted the lowest bid at \$2,662,470 with a ten-month construction schedule to significant completion. SGRC staff immediately began working with Kellerman and the architect to identify Value Engineering (V/E) options to reduce the estimate. These options included reduction of brick and finish per-foot allowances, landscaping changes, slight reduction in square footage, plumbing fixture changes, and various other modifications that will not compromise the structural integrity or overall functionality of the building. After these reductions, the construction estimate was reduced to \$2,512,943 with a 3% contingency. SGRC staff also worked to reduce the costs for furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) using similar value-selections to \$89,600. Mr. Strom also noted there would associated legal fees customary to projects such as this.

Mr. Strom explained that in order to proceed with the construction of the Valdosta office, the council will need to approve entering into a contract with Kellerman Construction to construct the Valdosta RC Building. Also, the council will need to approve partnerships with Commercial Banking Company and the Valdosta Lowndes Development Authority for the construction loan amount up to \$2,512,943 for up to a 20-year term; and the FF&E loan amount up to \$89,600 for up to a seven-year term; and accompanying agreements between SGRC and parties to affect the financing and construction and lease of a new facility. Mr. Strom stated that this information was presented to the SGRC executive committee immediately prior to the council meeting. The executive committee, he explained, recommended approval to submit the bid to construct the RC Valdosta office building and its funding to the full council. Mr. Strom asked the council if anyone had any questions. There being no questions, Lace Futch made a motion to approve the contract for construction of the RC Valdosta office building with Kellerman Construction and for the partnership with CBC Bank and the VLDA for the funding of the construction and other associated agreements. Michael Richbourg seconded the motion. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

INITIATION OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: Executive Director Lisa Cribb explained to council members that their packets included a copy of a performance evaluation (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Regional commissions, as required by law, must initiate annual performance evaluations of the commission and its Executive Director to be completed by their councils. Ms. Cribb explained that the performance evaluation document would be emailed to all council members to provide for ease of response and that members who preferred a hardcopy document should notify staff. She encouraged members to complete and return the evaluation and thanked them for their participation.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC C&ED 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 also advised those present to contact any of the 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 then reminded those present to contact her or any of the SGRC planning staff with any questions about any of the upcoming due dates.

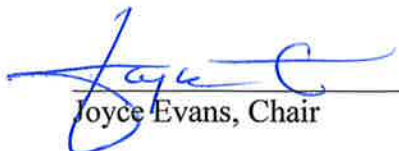
QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Chair Evans recognized guests Alice Johnson from the office of Congressman Austin Scott, Charles White from the office of Senator David Perdue's office, Jody Redding from the office of Senator Johnny Isakson; and Algenia Skinner, Troy Green, and Leigh Ann Trainer, all three from Georgia DOT. Chair Evans announced that Berrien County, Brantley County, Charlton County, Lanier County, Lowndes County, and Tift 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 shared that the Southern Region Policy Committee Meetings will be held on August 28 – 29, 2019 in Tifton at Southern Regional Technical College.
- 3.) **GMA Update:** Chair Evans called on Vivian Miller-Cody to give an update on GMA activities. Ms. Miller-Cody reminded those present that the 2019 GMA Annual Convention was held in Savannah, June 21st – 25th. She shared that there were 538 cities represented at the convention. She congratulated Julie Smith, Mayor of Tifton, as the new 3rd Vice President on the GMA Board of Directors; Matt Seale, Mayor of Ocilla, District 11 President; and Vivian Miller-Cody, City of Valdosta Councilmember, District 11 1st Vice President.
- 4.) **DCA Update:** There were no updates given for DCA activities.

REPORT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Chair Evans called upon Neal Bennett who presented the results from the nomination committee. Mr. Bennett stated that the nomination committee met prior to the regular council meeting and they would like recommend the following officers: Chair – Joyce Evans; Vice-Chair – Lee Gowen; and Secretary – Peggy Murphy. Lace Futch made a motion to close nominations. Andy Hutto made a motion to approve the recommended slate of officers for FY2020 for a two-year term, and Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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.



Joyce Evans, Chair



Peggy Murphy, Secretary