

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
THE VENUE • PEARSON, GA
April 25, 2023
11:00 a.m.**

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Evans called upon James Everett to give the invocation, and then he 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"/> Liles, Parker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Shane | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Steve |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Johnson, Robert | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Larry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holt, Jason |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone, Robbie | <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"/> Griner, Robert | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harris, Skipper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Folsom, Patrick |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brown, Travis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maefield, Barbara | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan, Don |
| <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"/> Moylan, Henry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Steen, Ted |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blicht, Brooks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Tony |
| 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"/> Robinson, Debra | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corbett, Stanley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver, Scott |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke, Buddy | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hudgins, Horace |
| <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 |
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payton, Anthony | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul, Steven |
| | | |
| <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"/> James, Michael-Angelo |
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Giddens, Brandi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> King, Barbara |

| <u>Governor's Office</u> | <u>Lt. Governor's Office</u> | <u>Speaker's Office</u> |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone, Keith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seale, Matt |
| Vacant | | |
| Vacant | | |

Staff Present

Backe, Elizabeth
 Courson, Scott
 Cribb, Lisa
 Highsmith, Wes
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Lovett, Roberta
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Hancock, Hayden
 Hayes, Celestine
 James, Jaelyn
 Knee, Daryl
 Lane, Kelly
 Payton, Alvin
 Peacock, Kelly
 Pleaketamm, Peeter
 Ponsell, Gary
 Redding, Jody
 Saxon, Joe
 Wright, Chris

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the March 23, 2023 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to approve the March 23, 2023 meeting minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH 2023 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the March 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Report had been emailed to council members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to accept the March financial report. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE PRESENTATION: Chair Evans called on SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom, who introduced Lt. Col. Peeter Pleaketamm to speak to the council. Lt. Col. Pleaketamm serves in the US Air Force and is stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, GA. He shared a PowerPoint presentation and briefly described Moody Air Force Base's operations. Moody AFB is home to the 23d Wing "Flying Tigers" and the 93d Air Ground Operations Wing. Lt. Col. Pleaketamm shared that their "mission is to organize, train, equip and deploy precision attack, personnel recovery and combat support to win today's fight." He shared that approximately 5,500 military and civilian personnel are at Moody AFB. Lt. Col. Pleaketamm enthusiastically shared details about the types of aircraft housed at Moody and examples of how the local region's location and geographical layout assist in readiness training for Moody's airmen. Lt. Col. Pleaketamm concluded his presentation by answering questions from the audience.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF CURRENT YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT:

SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the pages in their packets that detailed the proposed budget amendment (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that the SGRC prepares a budget before the fiscal year, but changes occur throughout the year. She stated that examples of this might be a grant award for a different amount than anticipated and the timing of contracts. Other factors influencing the budget amendment include staff changes and turnover. She explained that an annual budget amendment reconciles the expected revenues and expenses from the start of the fiscal year with the reality of what happened throughout the year. Ms. Cribb stated that the budget amendment presented to the council reflects a deficit of \$10,265. A contributing factor to the deficit was ARPA funding for the RC Aging program, which in the past had not required a % match, but due to recent changes, there is now a requirement that the RC match 25% of the ARPA funds received.

Ms. Cribb then shared with the council that the Executive Committee reviewed the budget amendment in detail during their meeting and recommended approval of the budget amendment. Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the current year's budget amendment. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, with no other discussion.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF DUES SCHEDULE FOR FY2024: Chair Evans called on SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to explain the Dues Schedule for FY2024. Ms. Cribb directed those present to a copy of the dues schedule for FY2024 located in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the Department of Community Affairs requires RCs to use the latest population figures from the Census Bureau for the computation of dues, and this schedule reflects those latest figures. She explained that per-capita dues would remain at \$1.25 for FY2024. The population for the region decreased by 65 from the previous year based on the 2022 estimated population numbers. Matt Seale made a motion to approve the Dues Schedule for FY2024. Don Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2024 WORK PROGRAM: Chair Evans called on SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to introduce the FY2024 Work Program. Ms. Cribb stated that Georgia State law requires the SGRC to compile a work program for planned activities in the upcoming fiscal year. She then referred those present to the draft Work Program document in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). In June, the council will have the opportunity to vote on the resolution to adopt the Work Program, allowing council members to review the program, make suggestions or ask questions before adopting it.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Deputy Executive Director of Government Services 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 funded projects and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. She shared that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant applications' due date would be May 31st. The due date for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) applications

would be June 2nd. She advised those present to contact SGRC Community and Economic Development staff regarding projects listed in their packet or any potential projects they may be interested in for their communities.

Planning: SGRC Planning and Transportation Director Elizabeth Backe referred those present to a handout listing the various plans that local governments are required to submit and the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Backe stated that the Planning staff was currently working on Transit Development Plans for Clinch, Echols and Lanier Counties. She encouraged council members to review the schedule for upcoming deadlines for their communities and contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

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

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests:** Chair Evans recognized Jody Redding, Field Staff Director for Governor Brian Kemp's office, Kelly Lane, DCA Region 11 Representative and Kelly Peacock, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Dean of Adult Education Services, and thanked them for attending the SGRC council meeting.
- 2.) **Recognition of Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Charlton, Echols and Lowndes counties for having 100% representation at the council meeting.
- 3.) **ACCG Update:** James Everett stated that the 2023 ACCG Annual Conference would be held April 27th – 30th in Savannah, GA.
- 4.) **GMA Update:** Barbara Maefield announced that the GMA Annual Convention would be held June 19th – 23rd in Savannah, GA.

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


Joyce Evans, Chair


Keith Stone, Secretary