

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
February 25, 2021
11:00 a.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Vice-Chair Lee Gowen called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

PROTOCOL FOR VIRTUAL MEETING: Vice-Chair Gowen 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: Vice-Chair Gowen 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"/> Walker, Bobby	<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
 Fowler, Megan
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Hull, Corey
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Strom, Rachel
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Anderson, Tina
 Byrd, Eva
 Davenport, Emily
 Maxwell, James
 Miller, Tonya
 Moore, Darrell
 Tooley, Sandra
 Twomey, Bill

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES: Vice-Chair Gowen reminded those present that a copy of the January 28, 2021 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to approve the minutes. Zurich Deshazior seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Vice-Chair Gowen reminded those present that a copy of the January 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Report had been emailed to council members and included in their council packets (copies attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara King made a motion to accept the January financial report. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE FROM ACCG: Vice-Chair Gowen introduced Bill Twomey, County Consulting Services Manager, with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). Mr. Twomey thanked Vice-Chair Gowen and the council for the opportunity to give an update on ACCG happenings. Mr. Twomey stated he wanted to share with the council, to inform new members that the ACCG is active in legislative advocacy and public policy to encourage county officials to build relationships with their state and federal legislators. He shared the ACCG’s website, www.accg.org, and told members they could stay up to date with all of the information regarding its efforts at the state capitol and the national level. Mr. Twomey stated the website is an excellent resource to access policy-related news, tools, resources and publications to contrib-

ute to Georgia's counties' advancement. He continued with some bills that the policy committees are focusing on and told members they can track these bills on their website under the bill tracking tab at www.accg.org/leg_billtracking.php. Mr. Twomey then asked if there were any questions. There being none, he again thanked the council for the opportunity to speak.

UPDATE FROM GMA: Vice-Chair Gowen introduced Emily Davenport, Member Service Consultant with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). Ms. Davenport thanked Vice-Chair Gowen and the council for the opportunity to give an update on GMA happenings. Ms. Davenport shared that GMA is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and technical consulting services. She then shared that there are many bills currently in session that GMA legislative policy committees are monitoring. Ms. Davenport continued to explain the importance of the impact of the upcoming bills on local municipalities. She then asked if there were any questions. There being none, she again thanked the council for the opportunity to share current legislation that GMA policy committees are watching and gave the GMA website for members to visit to get updates (www.gacities.com).

HISTORY OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS: Vice-Chair Gowen introduced SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb. Ms. Cribb explained she would like to give an overview of regional commissions to the new members and a refresher for the older members. There are twelve regional commissions in the state of Georgia. Every city and county in the state are members of regional commissions. Regional commissions were created in the early 1960s and started as area planning and development commissions. After several years serving the communities, the area and planning development commissions became known as regional development centers (RDCs), and in 2009 they became known as regional commissions. Regional commissions as defined by the state are local governments, just like cities and counties. Local governments and regional commissions pay per capita dues and are used to match or supplement federal or state funding to operate our programs.

The SGRC covers 18 counties and 45 municipalities with a population of approximately 415,000. The SGRC governance is the council. It consists of: the chairmen of the 18 county commissions, the mayor of each county seat, and a private official appointed by their county and city official on the council. There are also five state appointments: three by the governor, one by the lieutenant governor, and one by the speaker of the house. Ms. Cribb asked if there were any questions about the history of regional commissions. With no questions, she thanked the council and encouraged them to contact the SGRC with any questions.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR FY22 FTA SECTION 5310 FUNDING FOR MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES: SGRC Transit/Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler referred those present to a copy of the Resolution to enter into a contract for the Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Fowler explained this resolution would allow the RC to renew the contract with coordinated transportation for the Section 5310 funding in the amount of \$232,000. This contract is an annual contract. Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Contract for FY22 Funding for Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Barbara Mae field seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

SALE OF SAVANNAH AVE. PROPERTY: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom gave an update on the sale of the Savannah Ave. Property. At the last council meeting, the council approved the sale of the Savannah Ave. building along with the three tracts that were part of the property to Lowndes County Commission contingent on approval by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. At the February 23rd meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners, they approved the property's purchase from the SGRC. Mr. Strom explained that he is appealing to the SGRC council to consent to allow Chair Evans and RC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to sign the closing documents after the SGRC attorney reviews them. Barbara Maefield made a motion to approve the signing of the closing documents of the Savannah Ave. property by Chair Evans and RC Executive Director Lisa Cribb for the SGRC council. Ronnie Gaskins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

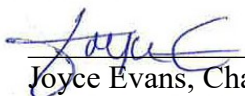
Grants: SGRC Community and Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs referred those present to a copy of the project status list included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the project status list shows funded projects and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. She shared that the city of Douglas' Land and Water Conservation Fund application was approved. She stated that the CED department had submitted five CDBG mitigation applications on the February 10th deadline for disaster funding that was only available in certain areas in our region. Ms. Hobbs also reminded members that June 4th is the deadline for CDBG regular round applications, and they are to be submitted electronically through DCA's GRAAM portal. She advised those present to contact SGRC Community and Economic Development staff regarding projects listed in their 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). 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: Vice-Chair Gowen asked if there were any questions, comments, or announcements.

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


Joyce Evans, Chair


Matt Seale, Secretary