

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**SPORTS COMPLEX AND CIVIC CENTER, PEARSON, GEORGIA**  
**April 25, 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 James Maxwell 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  
Godwin, Ariel  
Strom, Chris  
Taft, Wanda  
Vining, Kim

**Guests Present**

Bennett, Latrice  
Burchett, James  
Cuthbert, Lee  
James, Jaclyn  
Stevenson, Molly  
Westberry, Diane  
Williams, Bettye

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

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

**OVERVIEW OF THE FILM INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA:** Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Lee Cuthbert, Location Specialist with the State of Georgia Film Office, to give an overview of the film industry in Georgia. Ms. Cuthbert explained that the Georgia Film Office is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. The Film Office, formed in 1973, offers studios location assistance and resources to find crew members, stages, and production offices. Ms. Cuthbert shared that Georgia is one of the top three states for film and TV production in the country.

The state of Georgia offers tax incentives to studios or production companies to encourage filming in Georgia. Ms. Cuthbert stressed that the incentive is not a rebate, but is a tax credit. The incentive awards up to 30 percent of what a production spends back in transferable tax credits that can be sold on the free market. To receive the incentive, the studios are required to spend a minimum of \$500,000 in Georgia through local vendors in a single tax year. She shared that the incentive is built to help both Georgia taxpayers and the studios. Another appeal for studios to choose to film in Georgia, Ms. Cuthbert said, is location, location, location. She shared that Georgia offers studios a variety of location options from coastline to mountains and small towns to thriving metropolises. Ms. Cuthbert informed the council that the Film Office has Camera Ready Liaisons in each county to help connect film and TV production companies with local community resources, such as finding locations and crew and providing local expertise and support. She encouraged those present to visit the Camera Ready website at <https://camera-ready.georgia.org> to find their local liaison.

Ms. Cuthbert spoke next of the impact the film industry has had in Georgia. The film industry in 2018 was responsible for over 92,000 Georgia jobs and \$4.6B in total wages. She shared that there are nearly 3,000 film industry businesses in Georgia who hire from the local workforce. The film industry in 2007 had an economic impact on Georgia of approximately \$242M. In 2018, the economic impact on Georgia was over \$9B. Ms. Cuthbert asked those present to visit the Georgia Film website at [exploregeorgia.org/film](http://exploregeorgia.org/film) to view upcoming movie release dates and

trailers and to see what is currently filming around the state. She thanked the council for allowing her the opportunity to share her experience with the film industry in Georgia, and encouraged those present to reach out to their local Camera Ready Liaisons to get their communities involved in the film industry.

**REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF CURRENT YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

SGRC Executive Director, Lisa Cribb referred those present to the pages in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes) that detailed the proposed budget amendment and reminded everyone they received these in their email earlier in the week. Ms. Cribb reminded the council that the SGRC prepares a budget ahead of the fiscal year, but changes occur throughout the year. Examples of this, she stated, may be a grant award for a different amount than anticipated, and timing of contracts. Other factors influencing the budget amendment include staff retirements and turnover. She explained that an annual budget amendment reconciles our expected revenues and expenses from the start of the fiscal year with the reality of what has happened throughout the year. Ms. Cribb mentioned that while some of the line item adjustments were rather large, these decreases in revenues also had a corresponding decrease in expenditures to offset them. The total adjustments she explained, reflects a deficit of \$29,429 in the proposed budget amendment. With an overall budget of approximately \$15 million that adjustment is relatively small. She said the main reason for the deficit is a loss in the ITS department. The ITS department has shown a loss in the past and was covered by dues and the general fund. Ms. Cribb stated that over the next fiscal year, the programming side of ITS will be discontinued. ITS will continue to provide local governments with pc support. She then told the council that the budget amendment was reviewed during the Executive Committee meeting in detail, and the Executive Committee recommended approval of the budget amendment. Janice McKinnon made the motion to adopt the budget amendment and Barbara Maefield seconded. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF DUES SCHEDULE FOR FY 2020:**

SGRC Executive Director, Lisa Cribb referred those present to the page in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes) that illustrated the dues schedule for FY 2020. She explained the Department of Community Affairs requires that RCs use the latest population figures from the Census Bureau for computation of dues and this schedule reflects those latest figures. She noted the schedule shows only county-wide numbers. The estimates for municipalities has not yet been released. She explained that per-capita dues will remain at \$1.25 and that the overall population change across the region was a population increase of 522 people over the previous year for a total increase in dues for the region of \$653 for FY 2020. Ms. Cribb then asked for questions. She also noted that the Executive Committee had reviewed the proposed dues schedule and recommended approval. Matt Seale made a motion to approve the FY 2020 dues schedule and Janice McKinnon seconded. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**KNOW YOUR REGION: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES:**

Chair Evans called upon SGRC Planning Director, Elizabeth Backe to present the demographic changes to the council. Ms. Backe thanked Chair Evans and introduced SGRC Regional Planner, Ariel Godwin. She then referred those present to the State of the Region handout included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She stated that the reports contained in the handout were extracted from information compiled by Georgia Trend. Each year Georgia Trend publishes economic forecasting information prepared by the University of Georgia. Ms. Backe and Mr. Godwin highlighted many population statistics for the region from the handout. The population statistics were broken down into the following categories by county and city: population ranking,



race and ethnicity populations, age groups, employment comparison, broadband availability, and educational growth in the region. Ms. Backe concluded the presentation by encouraging those in attendance to review all of the statistics in the report, and if there were any questions, they should contact her or Mr. Godwin.

### **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 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 that the due date for the Service Delivery Strategy update is fast approaching for some communities, and should those communities need help with the preparation or filing of forms to contact the SGRC Planning staff.

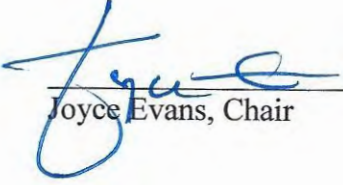
**Census PSAP:** SGRC GIS Director Rachel Strom referred those present to the Census PSAP flyer in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Strom stated that hard copy maps had been mailed out to local governments that show the proposed changes concerning census tracts. She said that digital files of the maps are also available. She stressed that any community that has not received copies of the maps showing the proposed changes to contact her immediately. Ms. Strom gave a deadline of May 3<sup>rd</sup> for the local governments to have their responses to the proposed changes to the GIS department. She said that any community with questions should contact her or any of the SGRC GIS staff.

### **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

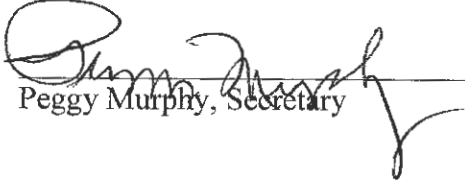
- 1.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Representative James Burchett of GA District 176. Chair Evans announced that Brantley County, Brooks County, Cook County, Echols County, and Lanier County had 100% representation at the council meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
- 2.) **ACCG Update:** Chair Evans reminded those present of the 2019 ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah, April 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 3.) **GMA Update:** Chair Evans called on Matt Seale to give an update on GMA activities. Mr. Seale reminded those present that the 2019 GMA Annual Convention will be held in Savannah, June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. He then invited the council to attend the Ocilla Legislative Day on May 2<sup>nd</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.



Joyce Evans, Chair



Peggy Murphy, Secretary