

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SPORTS COMPLEX AND CIVIC CENTER, PEARSON, GEORGIA
May 23, 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 Everett 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
Dorsey, Rex
Hobbs, Kimberly
Jacobs, Justin
Lovett, Roberta
Taft, Wanda
Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Anderson, Tina
Bennett, Latrice
Ginty, Neil
Harper, Tyler
Harris, Toby
James, Jaclyn
Johnson, Ouida
Lane, Kelly
Slusher, Michael
Stevenson, Molly
Taylor, Trey
Underwood, Brendan
White, Charles
Williams, Bettye

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the April 25, 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 APRIL 2019 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the April 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 April financial report. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF GEORGIANS FIRST COMMISSION: SGRC Workforce Development Director Roberta Lovett introduced Trey Taylor to the council. Mr. Taylor was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp as a member on the Georgians First Commission. Mr. Taylor explained that on January 14, 2019, Governor Kemp signed an executive order establishing Georgians First Commission to promote small business growth in the state. The Commission is made up of 18 members appointed by the Governor. Mr. Taylor stated that Governor Kemp has tasked the Commission with removing inefficiencies in regulations that restrict the growth of small business. Their job will be to review regulations and modify procedures to streamline government. Mr. Taylor said the Commission's focus during the first year will be to build an infrastructure to provide small business owners and local government officials the ability to communicate with the state and give recommendations on how regulations need to be shaped and which regulations are not working. Mr. Taylor referred those present to a flyer in the member packets with his contact information (copy attached and made part of these minutes) and encouraged anyone with questions about the Commission to contact him. He also asked any local government interested in hosting a listening session for Georgians First Commission to contact him. Mr. Taylor thanked the council for their time and for allowing him the opportunity to introduce Georgians First Commission.

PRESENTATION OF GEORGIA RELAY: SGRC Workforce Development Director Roberta Lovett introduced Brendan Underwood, Georgia Relay Outreach Coordinator, to speak to the council. Mr. Underwood shared that Georgia Relay is a free public service that allows Georgia residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking to communicate by phone.

He emphasized that all calls are secure and strictly confidential by law. Georgia Relay offers several types of relay call systems to ensure that their services can be utilized by those who are in need. Mr. Underwood said the types range from Traditional TTY Relay (text telephone) to Video Relay Service (utilizing webcams or videophones). Relay services are also available via the internet and through apps for cell phone users. Mr. Underwood then gave a detailed overview of how calls are placed, routed to and relayed by a specially trained communications assistant, and delivered using relay services. Mr. Underwood encouraged those present to share Georgia Relay information with their communities, and to contact him with any questions about the program. He shared Georgia Relay's website, www.georgiarelay.org, and offered to speak about the free relay services at other meetings to help educate the public.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2019 BUDGET: SGRC Workforce Development Director Roberta Lovett referred council members to a page in their packet summarizing the estimated budget for FY2020 (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Lovett explained that the document was an overview of the projected budget at this point. She explained that SGRC Finance Director, Kelly Schultz, had met with program directors to arrive at this large-scale view of the projections for FY2020. These projections, she explained, include staff salary projections in the different program areas as well as any expected direct charges for the upcoming fiscal year. She also explained these estimates include any pass-through funds for program areas. Ms. Lovett said that over the next month, Ms. Schultz and staff will continue working to refine this information so that a more specific line-by-line budget can be assembled for each program area including related contracts, grants, and projects. She explained that at June's council meeting, there will be a line item budget prepared for presentation and review of the council. Ms. Lovett concluded her report and encouraged council members to review and become familiar with the summary provided.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2019 WORK PROGRAM: Chair Evans called upon Kimberly Hobbs, Community & Economic Development Director, to introduce the work program presentations. Ms. Hobbs referred those present to the draft work program in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes) for reference during the presentations. Ms. Hobbs informed the council that this year's presentation will be different than it has been in past years. This year each program director will provide an overview of the planned activities for their division for the upcoming fiscal year. The presentations will be spread over two council meeting. The following program directors presented PowerPoint presentations to the council that highlighted the various activities for their department for the upcoming fiscal year: Wanda Taft, Area Agency on Aging Director; Roberta Lovett, Workforce Development Director; and Rex Dorsey, Lending Program Director.

Ms. Hobbs stated that at the June 2019 council meeting after the remaining presentations, a resolution to adopt the work program will be presented for consideration by the council. She encouraged members to review the work program and to contact her with any questions, comments or suggested changes.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SUBMISSION OF REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL REPORT: Chair Evans called for a motion to convene a public hearing for the submission of the Regional Plan Annual Report. Matt Seale made a motion to convene the public hearing. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chair Evans then called on Elizabeth Backe, SGRC Planning Director, to conduct the public hearing to announce the draft version of the 2019 Annual Implementation Program Report for the Regional Plan (copy attached and made part of

these minutes). Ms. Backe reminded the council that the Regional Plan was adopted in 2018. She informed those present that this report is an annual requirement of all regional commissions. Its purpose is to report to the Department of Community Affairs on the local government performance standards and the progress made on the Regional Work Program and the Regional Plan. She stated that no action by the council is needed at this time and that a digital copy of the report will be posted on the SGRC website at www.sgrc.us/regional-plan.html on May 23rd and will be available for 30 days prior to submission to DCA. Ms. Backe invited those present to contact her with any questions or comments. Since there were no questions or comments, Chair Evans asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular council meeting. The public hearing was unanimously adjourned and the regular meeting resumed on a motion by Neal Bennett and seconded by Barbara Maefield.

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 stated that staff is currently working on Berrien County's Comprehensive Plan update. She 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:

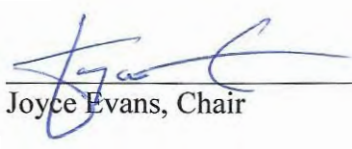
- 1.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Chair Evans recognized guests Senator Tyler Harper, Charles White from Senator Perdue's office, Dr. Tina Anderson from Wiregrass Technical College, and Kelly Lane from DCA. Chair Evans announced that Charlton County, Lanier County, Lowndes County, and 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 of the Lifelong Learning Summer Training to be held June 6th – 7th at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA.
- 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 21st – 25th. He also shared that The Municipal Leadership Institute will be held August 27th – 30th on Jekyll Island.
- 4.) **DCA Update:** Chair Evans invited Kelly Lane to share updates from DCA. Ms. Lane reminded those present that the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing application process is open. Communities that are applying are required to submit a letter of intent by

June 28th and the applications are due by July 26th. She also congratulated the recent graduates from the May 22nd Georgia Academy for Economic Development class.

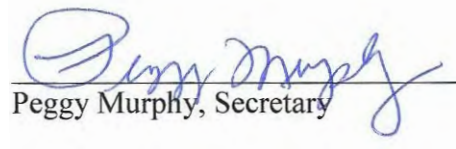
- 5.) **Service Awards:** Chair Evans presented Justin Jacobs with a plaque for fifteen years of dedicated service to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. She also presented Roberta Lovett with a plaque for ten years of dedicated service to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. Chair Evans commended these employees for their service.

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