

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN
MARCH 21, 2019
NOON**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Girtz, Kelly
Ferrelle, Dodd
Houston, Lamar
Palmer, Bill
Smith, Jeffery
Crow, Tom
Haynie, Doug
Pennamon, Carl
Dyer, Dave
Scarborough, John
Ainslie, Andy
Perriman, Fred
Bentley, David
Roseberry, Jerry
Turner, Frank
Daniell, John
Harden, Amrey
Pittard, Billy
Chambers, Joyce
Fordyce, Cary
Ledford, Howard

Members Absent:

Graham, Pat
Blechinger, Linda
Jennings, Tommy
Vaughn, Lee
Guest, Larry
Brock, Phil
Shaw, Jim
Blackmon, Jody
Padilla, Bob
Banes, Marcello
Shearon, Dave
Berry, Rick
Boggs, Ronnie
Little, Kevin
Dally, Hal
O'Rourke, Tate
Roberts, Roy

Associate Members Present:

Horton, Harold
Seymour, Joel

Guests Present:

Andrew Seaver
Tyrone Evans
Bill Twomey
Don Jernigan

Staff Present:

Jim Dove, Executive Director
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant
Alicia Page, Comptroller
Burke Walker, Director of Planning & Government Services

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Jerry Roseberry called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He welcomed members, guests, and staff. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes

of the February meeting. **Such a motion was made by Oglethorpe Chairman Billy Pittard and seconded by Mr. Cary Fordyce. The motion carried unanimously.**

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Newton County: On February 8th, the Economic Development office hosted their Annual Industry Breakfast at Oxford College. Over 35 industrial companies were represented. The City of Covington received a \$750,000 EIP Grant from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for U.S. Corrugated to construct a new rail spur to their site. The Joint Development Authority (JDA) received a \$500,000 EDGE Grant from DCA to extend Shire Parkway an additional 2,400 feet, which will open the Eastern 600 plus acres of Stanton Springs for recruitment. Shire was officially acquired by Takeda Pharmaceuticals for \$62 billion. The new President of Georgia Piedmont Technical College is Dr. Tarez Holston formerly of Lanier Technical College.

Oconee County: Oconee County has received an improved ISO classification of 4/4X, effective April 1st from the Insurance Services Office. The improved rating was achieved through a cooperative effort among several Oconee County entities. Economic development activities will now be the responsibility of the Chamber of Commerce, and the County will help fund this effort. Landscaping along the Mars Hill Road corridor is complete. The Library will hold Open House on Saturday, March 30th. The expanded and renovated building is a total of 9,600 square feet and includes a 408 sq. ft. creation studio.

Oglethorpe County: The County recently completed its Audit, and it is anticipated that this will be the fourth consecutive year with no findings. Commissioner Pittard advised everyone to be very careful when traveling through the County, since numerous traffic tickets have been issued recently. Commission Pittard, Elbert County Commission Chairman Lee Vaughn, and officials from neighboring counties met with Commissioner Gary Black and representatives in Atlanta regarding land application for food production waste. Hopefully, legislation will be introduced that will tighten regulations. The County is beginning a reassessment of property values.

Walton County: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit & Finance: Committee members met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed financial statements for the seven-month period ending January 31, 2019. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$36,298.98. Financial activity for the seven-month period should be at approximately 42% of our remaining FY2019 Budget projections overall. On another matter, the Workforce Development Division has two purchase orders that are over \$5,000. The

purchase orders are for modifications of the generators on the two new training trailers. The generators are currently so loud that it impedes the ability to instruct and is above OSHA's recommended decibel level. The work will modify the generators to a satisfactory level of noise so that the trailers can be put into service. The amount of the purchase orders are \$19,800 each. NEGRC will be receiving reimbursements in the amount of \$9,000 for each purchase order from Learning Labs Incorporated (\$5,000 per PO) and McGee Enterprises (\$4,000 per PO) to offset the cost of the modifications. The RC's overall cost for the modifications will be \$10,800 per training trailer. The plan is to begin modification work on the Industrial Mechanical Training Trailer first. Once the work has been completed to satisfaction, work on the Welding Training Trailer will begin. Approval for these POs was made by the Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee via e-mail prior to the Council meeting. The Committee report was accepted by consensus.

Program of Work: The Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed the following technical assistance requests for the month.

- **CITY OF BUCKHEAD** – Assistance in planning and implementing the approved Comprehensive Plan. Any fees related to this assistance will be provided following further discussion.
- **CITY OF WINTERVILLE** – Assistance in preparing design guidelines for the Historic District. The guidelines will be used as a planning tool by the Winterville Historic Preservation Commission and owners of property within the District. The estimated total cost of developing the design guidelines is \$8,000. This amount will be offset by the NEGRC Planning Contract from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in the amount of \$7,000. The remaining \$1,000 will be required of the City and invoiced by the NEGRC at the project's completion.

Based upon recommendation of the Executive Director, **a motion to approve the technical assistance requests for the month for inclusion in the FY19 Program of Work, effective March 21, 2019, was made by Commissioner Pittard and seconded by Mr. David Bentley. The motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Government Services: The Planning & Government Services Committee met prior to the Council meeting and discussed several items of interest. In addition to members providing area reports, the Committee learned of staff efforts in finalizing three Community Development Block (CDBG) grant applications. These are due to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on April 1, 2019, and mark an increase in the number of applications from previous years. Award announcements are anticipated in early fall. No Council action was required.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Dove participated, along with the Aging staff, in the mid-year review of the Aging program which is conducted by the State Division of Aging Services staff. As is usually the case, state staff was very complimentary of the NEGRC's efforts, and offered little in the way of suggestions to improve. The Area Agency on Aging serves Senior Centers in each of the NEGRC's twelve counties, and in some cases there are multiple Senior Centers. NEGRC recognizes the need to provide quality services to seniors in the region, as it is the fastest growing segment of our population and often the most vulnerable. NEGRC is particularly proud of the programs to assist the elderly in staying in their private homes as long as possible without being placed in assisted living facilities.

Executive Assistant Mott Beck and Executive Director Dove facilitated three retreats since the last Council meeting. A session for the Elbert County Board of Commissioners was held at Bobby Brown Park on February 22nd. This was followed the next week by the annual Planning Retreat for the Jefferson Mayor and Council. It was held at the Civic Center in that City. On Saturday, March 9th, they facilitated a session for the Elberton Mayor and Council at the Elberton Arts Center. A session for the Jefferson Downtown Development Authority will be held at the Municipal Complex on March 22nd, and on April 19th the Annual Planning Retreat for the City of Braselton Mayor and Council will be held at headquarters. Conducting a retreat is not just a one-day event; it requires planning in advance, the actual retreat itself, and preparation of a summary for attendees afterwards. These retreats are done at no cost to the governments involved.

Staff evaluations are ongoing and will be completed by the end of March. This process is conducted on an annual basis in order to make employees aware of their positive attributes as well as areas of improvement. These evaluations are discussed with employees and placed in their Personnel File.

OTHER BUSINESS

At this time, Chairman Roseberry appointed the following members to an Awards Committee to choose nominees for the awards that are given annually in May: Kevin Litte, Amrey Harden, and Billy Pittard.

The next meeting will be held on April 18.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck
Executive Assistant