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Date: June 20, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

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## Minutes

### **Members Present:**

Ronnie Boggs  
Michael Coile  
Tom Crow  
John Daniell  
David Dyer  
Dodd Ferrelle  
Daniel Graves  
Serra Hall  
Doug Haynie  
Bruce Henry  
Todd Higdon  
John Howard  
Jesse Johnson  
Terry Lawler  
Dee Lindsey  
Blake McCormack  
Wendell McNeal  
Brad Tucker

### **Members Absent:**

Marcello Banas  
Phil Brock  
Kelly Girtz  
Pat Graham  
Tommie Jennings  
Janet Jones  
Deborah Krause  
Bill Palmer  
Jay Paul  
Fred Perriman  
Billy Pittard  
Jim Shaw  
Shane Short  
David Thompson  
William Trimier  
Lee Vaughn

### **Guests Present:**

Wendy Bond, Winterville  
Katrina Cochran, Senator Warnock's Office  
Mike Fisher, WGI  
Luke Hetland, Lt. Governor's Office  
Hope Iglehart, Senator Ossoff's Office  
Grace Martin, Bogart  
Tina Mills, Winterville  
Andy Pippin, GMC  
Carol Williams  
Greg Ziesenhene, Collins GA-10

### **Staff Present:**

Amber Bailey  
Mark Beatty  
Carol Cofer  
Peggy Jenkins  
Sophia Primer  
Burke Walker

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson John Daniell called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. He welcomed attendees to the Council meeting and requested that everyone rise and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then invited any guests or visitors to introduce themselves.

Chairperson Daniell informed the attendees that the April 18, 2024 minutes were distributed prior to May's meeting but were not approved due to lack of a quorum. He called for a motion to approve the minutes unless there were any additions or corrections. A motion was made by Commissioner Blake McCormack and seconded by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



## **Items of Local Interest**

Chairperson Daniell announced that today, four counties would report on items of local interest. These include Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton Counties. He invited the county representatives to provide their reports.

### **Newton County – Serra Hall**

- Five thousand people recently attended the Vampire Diaries' Epicon event.
- A new development has been built to house facilities used for film associated tourism.
- Three new hotels are under construction.
- The studios are booked and production on several shows is underway. Please contact Covington, if interested in information or guidance on the film industry.
- The Absolics plant is an \$800 million project creating 400 jobs that received a CHIP funding grant. It should be opening by the end of 2024.
- A new frontage road for the Rivian plant should be opening in the summer of 2024.

### **Oconee County- John Daniell**

- One Commission seat will be open in the fall.
- An additional 20 miles of road will be paved using TSPLOST funds.
- The budget has been completed and the tax digest has been received.
- For the fourth year in a row the millage rate will be dropped. This is the third year in a row that it has been a full roll-back.

### **Oglethorpe County- Jesse Johnson**

- Sludge dumping continues to be an issue.
- All the paperwork has been submitted to the EPD for the C&D landfill expansion project.
- Everyone is welcome to attend the fireworks show.

### **Walton County – John Howard**

- Chairman David Thompson won re-election recently and during his time as Chairman he has worked on a \$150 million jail project, a \$45 million water-treatment facility at Hard Labor Creek reservoir and a \$45 million park at Walnut Grove.
- One thousand homes in Monroe have been approved but a building moratorium has been issued until the wastewater plant is completed.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Audit & Finance – Terry Lawler**

Mr. Lawler said the Audit & Finance Committee members met earlier today and reviewed three items that require Council action today.

There was no quorum last month when the Committee reviewed the March 2024 financial statements for the 9th month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$262,83.15.



This month the Committee reviewed the April 2024 financial statements for the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditure by \$328,511.54. Motions were made to accept the March and April 2024 financial statements. The motions passed unanimously.

The Committee also reviewed the FY24 Revised and FY25 Proposed budgets and their recommended funding. Motions were made to approve the budgets as presented. The motions passed unanimously.

### **Program-of-Work –Mayor Dodd Ferrelle**

Mayor Ferrelle said the Program-of-Work Committee met prior to today's Council meeting and reviewed two items that require Council action. Three items from last month's meeting (due to lack of quorum) also require action.

The items from last month's meeting include:

- A project closeout (comprehensive plan) for the City of Hull.
- The amended FY24 Scope-of-Work
- Standards-of-Measurement Review

A motion was made to approve these three items. The motion passed unanimously.

The items for this month include:

- A project closeout for the City of Covington.
- The proposed FY25 Scope-of-Work for the NEGRC.

A motion was made to accept these two items. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Planning and Government Services – Mayor John Howard**

The PGS Committee reviewed the Regional Plan Implementation Resolution.

A motion was made to adopt the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Personnel– Mayor Doug Haynie**

Mayor Haynie said the Personnel Committee met prior to the meeting and reviewed proposed amendments to the NEGRC's personnel policy handbook that he listed.

A motion was made to approve the amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Director's annual performance appraisal was reviewed prior to the meeting. The Personnel Committee recommended approval of Executive Director Walker's performance appraisal.

A motion was made to approve the performance appraisal. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Executive Director's Report – Burke Walker**

Executive Director Burke Walker greeted the Council and thanked everyone for their attendance.



### **Congressionally Directed Spending Applications**

Executive Director Walker discussed the recent phone calls received from Senators Warnock and Ossoff's offices. The application to Senator Ossoff's office did not progress. The application to Senator Warnock's office has advanced to the next level of review, expected in July or August. The Building Committee is expected to meet in August to review updated information. The NEGRC appreciates all the support letters provided by members for the CDS applications.

### **Georgia Association of Regional Commissions**

Executive Director Walker stated that the last meeting of the fiscal year was held recently. Saralyn Stafford of Carl Vinson Institute of Government is retiring at the end of June. She worked for many years at the Department of Community Affairs and assisted communities with economic development and rural development.

### **Regional Housing Forum**

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that the NEGRC would be hosting a Regional Housing Forum tomorrow that was organized by NEGRC Planning and Government Services Director Mark Beatty.

### **Georgia Municipal Association**

Executive Director Walker stated that he would be assisting with the GARC booth at the GMA conference and would also attend the reception for Mayor Fred Perriman's induction as GMA president.

### **Development District Association of Appalachia**

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that the DDAA's summer board meeting will be held in Huntington, West Virginia in July. Current DDAA President, Chris Chiles is hosting. The DDAA will offer training on a variety of subjects for staff of the Regional Commissions across the 13 Appalachian Regional Commission states, prior to the board meeting.

There were no questions or comments, so Executive Director Walker concluded his report.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business before the Council, Chairperson Daniell adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Amber Bailey  
Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

8/15/24  
Date Approved