



Date: October 21, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Telephonic

Minutes

Members Present:

Andy Ainslie
Ronnie Boggs
John Daniell
David Dyer
Dodd Ferrelle
Kelly Girtz
Pat Graham
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Todd Higdon
Steve Horton
Janet Jones
Terry Lawler
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Bill Ritter
Roy Roberts
Joel Seymour
Jim Shaw
Shane Short
Solomon Smothers
Jennifer Stewart

Members Absent:

Louise Adams
Marcello Baner
Linda Blechinger
Phil Brock
Tom Crow
Cary Fordyce
Jill Fortson
Larry Guest
Harold Horton
John Howard
Byron Lombard
Billy Pittard
Flemie Pitts
David Thompson
Brad Tucker
Frank Turner
Lee Vaughn

Guests Present:

Mike Beatty
Kristen Miller
Phil Pitts, Elbert County

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Julie Ball
Eva Kennedy
Sophia Primer
Burke Walker

Call to Order

Chairman Bill Palmer called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Chairman Palmer welcomed everyone to the October meeting. He then asked Julie Ball to take a roll call for those not already identified on the call. Chairman Palmer asked that any guests present announce themselves. Chairman Palmer asked everyone to rise and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then said the September 16, 2021 minutes were distributed prior to today's meeting. Unless there were corrections or changes, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Mayor Fred Perriman and seconded by Commissioner Andy Ainslie. The motion passed unanimously.



Chairman Palmer stated that in the interest of time and because the meeting was being held virtually, County reports would be delayed until the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Audit & Finance – Mayor Fred Perriman

Mayor Perriman said members of the Audit & Finance Committee met prior to today's Council meeting via zoom.

August 2021 Financials

Committee members reviewed the financial statements for the two-month period ending August 31, 2021. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$42,613.88.

Mayor Perriman recommended the Council accept the August 2021 financial report in the form of motions. The motions passed unanimously.

June 2021 Financials

Committee members reviewed the financial statements for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2021 at August 19, 2021 Council meeting. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$152,866. These statements are unaudited and are subject to change pending the final NEGRC audit.

Mayor Perriman recommended the Council accept the June 2021 financial report in the form of motions. The motions passed unanimously.

FY21 Budget Adjustments

Sophia Primer, NEGRC Comptroller, described to the Committee members line-item budget adjustments. She reported that during the audit process for FY2021, several budget adjustments were needed to complete the budget process. These adjustments include the following:

- General Fund
 - Decrease Salaries Expenditures \$7,200
 - Increase Fringe Benefits \$6,500
 - Increase Debt Service Interest \$700

- Aging Fund
 - Decrease Purchased and Contracted Services \$90,000
 - Increase Supplies and Materials \$90,000



- PGS Fund
 - Decrease Fringe Benefits \$14,000
 - Increase Purchased and Contract services \$14,000

Mayor Perriman recommended the Council accept the FY21 Budget Adjustments in the form of motions. The motions passed unanimously.

Program of Work Committee – Mayor Dodd Ferrelle

Mayor Dodd Ferrelle said the Program-of-Work Committee met prior to today's Council meeting and reviewed nine (9) technical requests from August. These include the following:

- There were six requests for staff assistance in preparing applications for State Fiscal Recovery funding. These six requests include the following:
 - The City of Oxford requested assistance in preparing an application for water-system improvements. The fee for this assistance is \$500 that is also supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding.
 - The City of Bogart requested assistance in preparing an application for stormwater-system improvements. The fee for this assistance is \$500 that is also supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding.
 - The City of Auburn requested assistance in preparing an application for water-system improvements. There is no fee for this assistance as it is supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding.
 - The City of Watkinsville requested assistance in preparing an application for sewer-system expansion within the City. The fee for this assistance is \$500 that is also supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding.
 - Madison County requested assistance in preparing an application for water-system improvements. There is no fee for this assistance as it is supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding.
 - The City of Greensboro requested assistance in preparing an application for waste-water system improvements within the City. The fee for this assistance is \$500 that is also supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding.
- The City of Hull requested assistance in preparing a T-Mobile Hometown Grant application to fund a local park in the downtown area. There is no fee for this assistance as it is supported by the NEGRC's Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding.
- Athens-Clarke County requested assistance in developing a Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program application. The application seeks



- funding for a new warehousing facility for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. If awarded, NEGRC assistance would include grant administration. The fee for the application's preparation is \$2,000.
- The City of Crawford requested technical assistance in developing an application to Georgia's Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The application seeks funding to develop a section of the "Firefly Trail" within the City's limits. The fee for this assistance is \$1,000.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mayor Ferrelle recommended approval of these nine (9) technical-assistance requests for inclusion in the NEGRC's FY2022 Program-of-Work in the form of motions. The motions passed unanimously.

Planning and Government Services – Commissioner Andy Ainslie

Commissioner Ainslie said the Planning & Government Services Committee met yesterday morning and discussed community and economic development activities throughout the region.

The PGS Committee has one item that required Council action: the Committee considered the NEGRC's FY23 Rural Transit grant application to the Georgia Department of Transportation. This grant application (for the next fiscal year) requires authorization and a filing resolution of the Council prior to its submittal

Commissioner Ainslie said the PGS Committee recommends the Council authorize the submittal of the FY23 GDOT 5304 Grant Application to continue program support of the NEGRC's transit-planning activities in the form of motions. The motions passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report – Burke Walker

Executive Director Burke Walker greeted the Council and stated that he hoped to host the November meeting in-person.

DCA

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that scheduling of award presentations for those communities that received Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) was underway. Areas with a higher concentration of awards would host the ceremonies.

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that there was a considerable amount of COVID-related funding available to assist renters and landlords from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.



Appalachian Leadership Institute (ALI)

Executive Director Walker mentioned the ALI, a program created by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The Leadership Institute provides economic-development training to new or emerging leaders that live or work in an ARC county. Applications are due in March 2022 and selected candidates would receive six, multi-day trainings at no cost. He suggested that any interested parties contact the NEGRC or visit arc.gov/leadership for more information.

Executive Director Walker also stated that he would be attending the Development Districts Association of Appalachia's (DDAA) winter board meeting in Tennessee November 14-16. He will represent Georgia's ARC counties and be joined by counter-parts from the other 12 ARC states.

Employee Classification Study

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government would be assisting the NEGRC with an Employee Classification Study. Results are expected to be ready for review in spring of 2022.

GARC Nominating Committee

Executive Director Walker announced that the Regional Commission's statewide organization was in an election year for its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Mayor Buddy Dukes (Adel) is the outgoing Chairperson and Mayor Kay Phippen (Jackson) is the outgoing Vice-Chairperson. Executive Director Walker planned to attend the in-person meeting in November. Commissioner Andy Ainslie was asked by the GARC to serve on the nominating committee to identify "policy" representatives to fill these vacancies.

Council Membership

Executive Director Walker discussed the vacancies on the Council, largely due to resignations. He reported on an additional vacancy for Oglethorpe County's private-sector member. Mr. Ronnie Boggs notified the NEGRC of his appointment to Lexington's City Council and need to resign in accordance with the NEGRC's bylaws. Executive Director Walker expressed his appreciation to Mr. Boggs for his many years of service and stated that he would, however, continue to serve on the Workforce Investment Board within the NEGRC's WIOA Division.

NMTC

Executive Director Walker mentioned Georgia's interest in applying for new market tax credits (NMTC) through the US Treasury. These credits provide financial support for larger projects that target lower-income areas. The credits are often used to leverage a company's location and development projects. Last year's application was not approved by the US Treasury. The Georgia Association of Regional Commission (GARC) is involved with Randy Griffin with the CSRA



Business Lending to support a re-application. Mr. Griffin asked the Regional Commissions to help reach out to their member local governments to identify economic-development projects that might use NMTC. Information has been sent out to local governments identified as most eligible. Last year's application scored 99.9 out of 100 points and the inclusion of specific projects in the application was one way to help improve the score. Georgia Power will also send out this information to the appropriate economic developers in the region.

Georgia Department of Human Services Covid-19 Contract Resolution

Executive Director Walker discussed a resolution that needed the Council's consideration and action. This resolution was related to the NEGRC's Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The resolution and a description were sent previously with today's Council meeting notice. The AAA received additional contract revenue from COVID-19 Stimulus funding in the following three areas:

1. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
2. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES)
3. Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccines via the Aging Network (VAC5)

The resolution, as required by the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), authorizes the NEGRC's AAA to receive this additional funding through September 30, 2022. Executive Director Walker stated that unless there were any questions it would be appropriate for the Council to consider action on executing this resolution that accepts the contractual agreements with DHS and the NEGRC's AAA for its twelve county area.

David Dyer motioned to adopt the COVID-19 contract resolution and Joel Seymour seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Walker asked if the Council had any further questions. There were none and he concluded his report.

The Beatty Team

Chairman Palmer introduced Mike Beatty, Managing Partner of the Beatty Team. Mr. Beatty described his background and gave a presentation on his organization's services and functions. At the conclusion, Chairman Palmer thanked Mr. Beatty for his presentation.

Other Business

There was no further business.



Adjournment

Chairman Palmer thanked everyone for their attendance and with no further business to come before the Council, he adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Julie Ball, Executive Assistant
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

November 18, 2021

Date Approved