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Date: March 20, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

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## Minutes

### Members Present:

Ronnie Boggs  
John Daniell  
David Eady  
Dodd Ferrelle  
Pat Graham  
Daniel Graves  
Doug Haynie  
Todd Higdon  
John Howard  
Tommie Jennings  
Deborah Krause  
Terry Lawler  
Dee Lindsey  
Blake McCormack  
Bill Palmer  
Jay Paul  
Tony Rogers  
Shane Short  
Brad Tucker

### Members Absent:

Phil Brock  
Marty Clark  
Michael Coile  
Kelly Girtz  
Serra Hall  
Bruce Henry  
Joe Hicks  
David Hunt  
Jesse Johnson  
Janet Jones  
Wendell McNeal  
Carol Myers  
Fred Perriman  
Billy Pittard  
David Thompson  
DeAshley Thurman  
William Trimier  
Lee Vaughn

### Guests Present:

Wendy Bond, Winterville  
Kirklyn Dixon, Walton County  
Beth Eavenson, DCA  
Kristin Fulford, Senator Warnock  
Sallie Fuller, Collins-GA-10  
Allen Hulme, Elbert County  
Grace Martin, Bogart  
Ben McDaniel, DAWC  
Jesus Rubio, Senator Warnock's Office  
John Ward, Walton County  
Carol Williams, WDB  
Srikanth Yamala, Barrow County  
Colt Young, Winterville PD

### Staff Present:

Amber Bailey  
Mark Beatty  
Carol Cofer  
Eva Kennedy  
Sophia Primer

### Call to Order

Chairperson John Daniell called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He asked that everyone rise and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests or visitors were invited to introduce themselves.

Chairperson Daniell informed the attendees that the February 20, 2025 minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. He called for a motion to approve the minutes unless there were any



additions or corrections. A motion was made by Mr. Brad Tucker and seconded by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Items of Local Interest**

Chairperson Daniell announced that today, three counties would report on items of local interest. These include Barrow, Elbert and Greene Counties. He invited the county representatives to provide their reports.

#### **Barrow County – Pat Graham**

- The County's economy is still relatively strong. Building permits and rezone requests are consistent with this time of year.
- The County hit an all-time high with sales tax collection in January. SPLOST was \$1,905,277.
- A local industry expansion was announced last month. Johns Mansville is expanding their facility and adding a new production line. The expansion is valued at \$150 million, and their workforce will grow to a total of 350. Construction will begin in 6-8 months and the new line should be operational in mid-2027.
- The Regional Commission is conducting a trails study for the County.
- The County has a local legislation pending to dissolve the Airport Authority and make the Airport a department of County Government.
- The DCA approved our SDS agreement on January 31.

#### **Elbert County- Allan Hulme**

- The new County Extension Service Building project is over 50% and should be completed by this Summer.
- A 2.5 million LMIG paving project has just started.
- The Bobby Brown Park lease with the Core of Engineers is being worked on.
- Ground has been broken on a new Dollar General Market.
- Another market is looking as well. Currently they're working on DOT permits and sewer plans. Hopefully that announcement will be made soon.
- Elbert County Industrial Park has received an RFI. Several studies have been completed on the property (Phase I ESA, threatened and endangered species survey, geotechnical assessment, etc).
- The City of Elberton held the ribbon cutting on the Bailey Building Renovation on Elberton Square. This project included the creation of two retail spaces downstairs and two apartments upstairs.
- Elberton's Fire Department's Training Facility was completed. This training center is a 4-story structure that includes 2 rooms to facilitate live burns. This facility also has other features to assist the department with training.
- Ground has been broken on the splash pad, and it should be open in July 2025.

#### **Greene County- Terry Lawler**



- The refurbished Iron Horse statue in Greene County was toppled by strong winds recently. The horse was quickly remounted on its foundation. Fortunately, there was no damage to the 12 foot tall, 2 ton horse.
- The Greensboro City Council voted to build a new \$4.1 million City Hall. The new City Hall will be constructed on the existing City Hall's site.
- The Yesterday Café in downtown Greensboro is once again open for business. The son and daughter-in-law of the past owner, who passed away a few years ago, will be operating the newly reopened restaurant.
- The extension of our SPLOST VII passed on Tuesday with a 70-30 margin. SPLOST VII will become effective January 1, 2027 and extend for 6 years.
- The county commission adopted a resolution for the establishment of a Public Facilities Authority.
- The Commissioners also approved funds to replace a fire engine that was totaled during a recent crash. The new engine will cost \$814,000.
- Real estate sales continue to be hot in Greene County. Last month the average listing price of a residential home was \$1.3 million.

## **Committee Reports**

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

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

The Committee reviewed the January 2025 financial statements for the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$409,074.45.

Mr. Lawler made a motion to accept the January 2025 financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also reviewed quotes to replace the roof of the newest portion of the NEGRC building. The roof replacement quotes ranged from \$41,350 to \$79,474. The NEGRC would like to request approval to accept Bone Dry Roofing Company's proposal for \$41,350 and allow up to \$50,000 to complete the roofing repairs.

Mr. Lawler made a motion to approve Bone Dry Roofing's proposal and to allow the NEGRC to use up to \$50,000 to complete the roof repairs. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Program of Work Committee did not meet as they had no project closeouts or technical assistance requests to review.

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

Mayor Howard said the Planning and Government Services Committee had no items requiring Council action. The second round of the SEID program through Southern Crescent Regional



Commission will be available later this year for out eight southern counties. This is for local governments seeking grant assistance for infrastructure improvements to support economic development initiatives. For those communities considering submitting an application. The 2025 PlanFirst applications are due May 15, 2025 and supplications for the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing are due by July 31, 2025.

### **Executive Director's Report – Eva Kennedy**

Executive Director Eva Kennedy greeted the Council and thanked everyone for their attendance. She had one item to present that required Council action.

### **NEGRC History and the Workforce Division**

Executive Director Kennedy discussed the history of the NEGRC's Workforce Division and gave an overview of the events that have occurred since its creation. Executive Director Kennedy discussed how funding from the Department of Labor is passed down and administered by the Technical College System to the WIOA Programs. She explained that tuition assistance, GED & skills training and high school youth are the three key focuses of WIOA.

There were no questions or comments, so Executive Director Kennedy concluded her report.

### **Other Business**

Chairman Daniell stated that each year an Awards Committee is formed to review nominations for two separate awards presented by the NEGRC annually. The two awards are the Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian Award and the Northeast Georgia Local Government Administrator of the Year. He asked Chairman Todd Higdon and Mayor Daniel Graves to serve on the Committee with Terry Lawler serving as Committee Chair. He asked that all nominations be submitted by April 10. He stated that the next meeting would be April 17, 2025 and reminded the Council that due to the Juneteenth holiday the June Council meeting will be held a week earlier, on June 12, 2025.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business before the Council, Chairperson Daniell adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Amber Bailey  
Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

04/17/2025  
Date Approved