



Date: October 16, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Minutes

Members Present:

Michael Coile
John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Serra Hall
Doug Haynie
Todd Higdon
John Howard
Tommie Jennings
Deborah Krause
Terry Lawler
Demond Mason
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Tony Rogers
Shane Short
Amy Stone
DeAshley Thurman
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Ronnie Boggs
Phil Brock
Marty Clark
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Daniel Graves
Bruce Henry
Joe Hicks
David Hunt
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Dee Lindsey
Wendell McNeal
Billy Pittard
David Thompson
William Trimier

Guests Present:

David Crowley, Greene County
Jamie Dove, Jackson County
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Luke Hetland, Lt. Governor
Ben McDaniel, DAWC
Kathy Morgan

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Mark Beatty
Amy Jones
Eva Kennedy
Sophia Primer

Call to Order

Chairperson Shane Short called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He asked that everyone rise and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Short informed the attendees that the September 18, 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 Mr. Tommie Jennings to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



Items of Local Interest

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

Greene County – Terry Lawler

- Greene County has hired a new County Manager, David Crawley. David was formerly the county manager for McDuffie County and replaced Byron Lombard who recently retired.
- The Commissioners received background information about the Greene County Public Facilities Authority established by Local Act. The Commissioners appointed three citizens, and two Commissioners appointed themselves to the Board.
- Commissioners approved the contract to rehabilitate the terminal apron, phase 2 with GDOT and to use SPLOST VII and TSPLOST funding for the required local match.
- Commissioners again lowered the county millage rate. This makes over a decade of millage reductions for the county operating budget.
- The Commissioners adopted new changes to the county comprehensive plan due to citizen concerns with large developments overtaking formerly agricultural lands.
- This August the US Census Bureau ranked Greene County as the 5th richest county in Georgia. Four of the top richest counties were in the NEGRC.
- Work continues on the widening of State Highway 44 from I-20 to the pyramid in Putnam County. The project is estimated to take up to 8 years to complete.
- A new Publix is being built in Putnam County, just two miles from the existing Greene County Publix.
- Elections are being held in Greene County cities this year. The most interesting election will probably be in Greensboro where, due to existing law, every councilmember and mayor position is up for reelection, with no staggered terms. Based on the number of candidates running, Greensboro could potentially have an all-new city council and mayor this November.
- Local citizens in Greensboro met with GDOT and state officials to voice their concern with a proposed dramatic increase in container traffic that would be using GA Highway 15 to travel from the port in Savannah on I-16 to the inland port in Gainesville. If the container trucks use GA Highway 15, the estimated increase in daily traffic would be approximately 600 additional trucks. This increase would negatively impact the cities of Adrian, Wrightsville, Tennille, Sandersville, Sparta, White Plains, Siloam, Greensboro and Watkinsville. Locals voiced concerns including increased traffic congestion, motor vehicle accidents and highway damage. They asked that the container trucks use US Highway 441, which is part of the GRIP road program, and avoid the windy, narrow two-lane GA Highway 15 corridor.

Jackson County- Jamie Dove

- The airport ribbon cutting will be held on December 5.



- The fleet maintenance and public works building is under construction and the ribbon cutting will be held in May.
- A TSPOLST will be on the ballot for November 4.
- The budget was passed with a full roll back + .2 with other fund entities involved due to opting in to House Bill 581.
- There are mayoral races on the ballot for Hoschton and Jefferson.
- Jackson County has new high school and elementary school projects underway, and Commerce has a new elementary school in the works.
- The Comp Plan is slated to be approved on October 20.
- The Transportation plan was approved on August 18.
- A parks and recreation survey is available now so please participate if you have a chance.
- The Senior Center has closed their Community Development Block Grant out with 425 members of the senior center.
- Kevin Poe, the County Manager, is retiring at the end of this year and everyone is welcome to attend.

Audit & Finance – Mayor Fred Perriman

The members of the Audit & Finance Committee met earlier today and reviewed one item that required Council action today.

The Committee reviewed the August 2025 financial statements for the 2nd month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$310,196.53.

Mayor Perriman made motions to recommend Council approval of the August 2025 financial statements and was seconded by Mr. Terry Lawler. The motion 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 seven (7) project requests and three (3) project closeouts that required Council action today.

- A request from Greene County to provide data-entry assistance with tabulating Age-Friendly Community Survey responses. There is no fee for this assistance.
- Requests to assist Oglethorpe County and the cities of Arnoldsville, Crawford, Lexington, and Maxeys with their joint Comprehensive Plan update. The total fee for this assistance is \$9,000.
- A request from the City of Elberton for assistance with the joint Elbert County Comprehensive Plan. The fee for this assistance is \$6,000.

There were three (3) project closeouts:



- A project closeout for the City of Social Circle's comprehensive plan amendment.
- Two closeouts for annual retreat facilitations for the cities of Winterville and Statham.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mayor Ferrelle made motions to approve these project requests for inclusion in the FY26 program-of-work and was seconded by Mr. Blake McCormack. The motions passed unanimously.

Seed Grant

The Committee also reviewed the proposed Seed Grant application to support Georgia Upper Savannah Strategic Planning efforts and, if awarded, add the NEGRC's proposed activities to the FY26 Program-of-Work. As proposed, the NEGRC would receive approximately \$37,000 of the Seed Grant funding. Mayor Dodd Ferrelle made motions to recommend Council approval for the NEGRC to serve as the applicant for the Seed Grant and was seconded by Mayor Debbie Krause.

Executive Committee – Shane Short

Chairman Short discussed the proposed bylaws amendments that had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. These proposed changes include the following:

- Changes to the Executive Committee Composition and responsibilities.
- Personnel Committee responsibilities.
- Combining the Program of Work and Planning & Government Services Committees.
- Adding guidelines for establishing new committees.

Chairman Short stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the bylaws amendments as presented. A motion was made by Mayor Perriman and was seconded by Blake McCormack. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report – Eva Kennedy

Executive Director Eva Kennedy greeted the Council and thanked everyone for their attendance. She had no items that required Council action.

New PGS Committee

Executive Director Kennedy stated that since the Program of Work Committee will be combined with the Planning & Government Services Committee if any members of the POW have specific committee assignment request those should be emailed to Executive Assistant, Amber Bailey.

NEGRC Renovations

Executive Director Kennedy stated the NEGRC has opened bidding for renovations. The required pre bid meeting will be held on Monday 10/20. The official bid opening will be on November 10.



FY25 Audit

Executive Director Kennedy said that the Fy25 audit had been completed and would be presented by Rushton at the November Council meeting.

New Workforce Development Director

Executive Director Kennedy welcomed the NEGRC's new Workforce Development Director Amy Jones who comes from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.

Next Month

Executive Director Kennedy stated that at the next meeting some updates to the NEGRC's personnel policies would be presented. New employee performance review forms will also be reviewed by the Personnel Committee.

Transit

Executive Director Kennedy showed a map of the transit providers in our region and recapped the discussions held at the Transit Round Table prior to the meeting. In November, a guest speaker from UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government will speak on electric mobility, economic impact and potential community implications.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chairman Short reminded members that the next Council meeting would be held on Thursday, November 20 at noon. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Amber Bailey
Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

11.20.25
Date Approved