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Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

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## Minutes

### Members Present:

Ronnie Boggs  
John Daniell  
Dodd Ferrelle  
Doug Haynie  
Bruce Henry  
Joe Hicks  
John Howard  
Janet Jones  
Terry Lawler  
Blake McCormack  
Wendell McNeal  
Carol Myers  
Bill Palmer  
Fred Perriman  
Tony Rogers  
Shane Short  
Brad Tucker

### Members Absent:

Phil Brock  
Marty Clark  
Michael Coile  
David Eady  
Kelly Girtz  
Pat Graham  
Daniel Graves  
Serra Hall  
Todd Higdon  
David Hunt  
Tommie Jennings  
Jesse Johnson  
Deborah Krause  
Dee Lindsey  
Demond Mason  
Jay Paul  
Billy Pittard  
Amy Stone  
David Thompson  
DeAshley Thurman  
William Trimier

### Guests Present:

Julia Dietz, CVIOG-UGA  
Kristin Fulford, Senator Warnock  
Luke Hetland, Lt. Governor  
Sandra Koch, Collins GA-10  
Sam Lattimer, Rushton  
Susie Leggett, Senator Warnock  
Ryan Marks  
Ben McDaniel, DAWC  
Kathy Morgan, Newton County  
Sallie Painter, Collins GA-10  
Jesus Rubio, Senator Warnock  
Carol Williams, Workforce Development Board

### Staff Present:

Amber Bailey  
Carol Flaute  
Amy Jones  
Michele Kelley  
Eva Kennedy  
Annette Miller  
Mamie Mills

### 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 October 16, 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. Wendell McNeal to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



### **Programming and Government Services – Brad Tucker**

The members of the PGS Committee met earlier today and reviewed seven (7) project requests and four (4) project closeouts that required Council action today.

The seven (7) project requests included:

- A request from the City of Good Hope for assistance with their comprehensive plan update. The fee for this assistance is \$1,500.
- A request from the City of Winterville for assistance with preparing a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in the 2026 cycle for park improvements. The fee for this assistance is \$1,500.
- A request from the City of Elberton to provide assistance with compliance monitoring of federal regulations for a GEFA GRID grant. There is a \$5,000 fee for this assistance.
- Requests to assist Elbert County and the City of Bowman with their joint Comprehensive Plan update with the City of Elberton. The total fee for this assistance is \$6,000 for the County and \$3,000 for the City.
- A request from the City of Winder for assistance with a historic resource survey. The fee for this assistance is \$10,000.
- A request from the City of Oxford to prepare a re-application for CDBG funds in the 2026 cycle for water system improvements. The fee for this assistance is \$1,500.

The four (4) project closeouts included:

- Comprehensive plan updates for Jackson County and the cities of Commerce, Hoschton and Woodville.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mr. Tucker 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.

### **Personnel Committee – Doug Haynie**

The Personnel Committee met earlier today and discussed several personnel policy updates.

These proposed changes include the following:

- Addition of Veteran's Day as a paid holiday
- Incorporation of the existing Remote Work Policy into the personnel handbook.
- Clarification of emergency procedures and inclement weather pay.
- Adding guidelines for establishing new committees.

Mayor Haynie motioned to recommend adoption of the updated Personnel Policy Handbook as presented and the addition of Veteran's Day as a paid holiday starting in the 2026 calendar year and was seconded by Mayor Janet Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Building Committee – John Daniell**



The Building Committee met prior to the Council meeting to review the six bids received from contractors to perform the NEGRC building renovations. Thomas Turnkey was the apparent lowest bidder. Mr. Daniell made motions to recommend the NEGRC award Thomas Turnkey's bid for a maximum amount of \$1,132,483 and was seconded by Mr. Terry Lawler. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Audit & Finance Committee – Mayor Fred Perriman**

The members of the Audit & Finance Committee met earlier today and reviewed two (2) items. One item required Council action, and the other will be revisited at a later date. The Committee reviewed the September 2025 financial statements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$482,987.73. Mayor Perriman made motions to recommend Council approval of the September 2025 financial statements as presented and was seconded by Mr. Bill Palmer.

The second item to be reviewed was the FY25 NEGRC Financial Audit performed by Rushton, LLC. Mr. Will Merritt reviewed a draft of the report virtually with the Committee and Sam Lattimer reviewed the draft report in person for the Council. No action will be taken on the audit report until the federal government releases the compliance supplement for 2025.

### **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 AAA Director**

Executive Director Kennedy congratulated Michele Kelly on her promotion to AAA Director and thanked the outgoing AAA Director Peggy Jenkins for her many years of service. Executive Director Kennedy mentioned that she enjoyed attending the AAA Caregiver of the Year Awards that were recently held.

### **Government Shut Down Ends**

Executive Director Kennedy mentioned that the 44-day government shutdown ended and the next major date to look forward to other business being handled will be January 30, 2026.

### **NEGRC Building Update**

Executive Director Kennedy stated the NEGRC bid has been awarded to Thomas Turnkey and the Council will be kept informed of the construction timeline.

### **Guest Speaker- Plug Into Georgia Initiative**

Executive Director Kennedy welcomed Julia Dietz of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to discuss electric mobility. This initiative provides user-friendly tools, educational opportunities, outreach, engagement, and technical assistance to help communities navigate the transition to electric transportation. By convening subject matter experts and partnerships, offering neutral, data-driven



education, and providing technical support, Plug Into Georgia aims to strengthen connections between the University of Georgia and local communities while helping leaders make informed decisions.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Council, Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Amber Bailey  
Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

01/15/2026  
Date Approved