

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN
JUNE 16, 2016
NOON**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Blechinger, Linda
Ferrelle, Dodd
Houston, Lamar
Lyon, Tommy
Palmer, Bill
Bullard, Ed
Plott, Roy
Trammel, Gene
Warren, Ellen
Perriman, Fred
Bentley, David
Ellis, Keith
Roseberry, Jerry
Turner, Frank
Davis, Melvin
Ivie, Charles
Harden, Amrey
Berry, Rick
Johnson, Jesse
Little, Kevin
Chambers, Joyce
Fordyce, Cary
Roberts, Roy

Members Absent:

Graham, Pat
Bartlett, Wayne
Denson, Nancy
Guest, Larry
Brock, Phil
Duvall, Valerie
Crow, Tom
Shaw, Jim
Workman, Stone
Dyer, Dave
Dove, Anthony
Blackmon, Jody
Gandy, Roy
Pittard, Billy
Thompson, Greg

Staff Present:

Jim Dove, Executive Director
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant
Evans Brinson, Comptroller
Burke Walker, Director of Planning & Government Services
Peggy Jenkins, Area Agency on Aging Director

Associate Members Present:

Ouzts, Buddy
Seymour, Joel

Media Present:

Blake Giles, Oconee Enterprise

Guests Present:

Gail Lyon
Mike Benton
Jon Herschell
Andrew Seaver
Josh Findley
Chuck Williams
George Chandler
Wendy Bond
Nancy Bobbitt

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Frank Turner called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He welcomed members, guests, media, and staff. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting. **Such a motion was made by Commissioner Gene Trammell and seconded by Mayor Linda Blechinger. The motion carried unanimously.**

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Newton County: Due to candidates for offices from more than one political party, several races will be decided in the November election. The budget process for FY2017 is ongoing. The Senior Center has received the 18-passenger shuttle bus that was included in the FY2016 Budget. Through a CDBG, the Newton County Board of Commissioners is partnering with Action Ministries to provide food boxes to families and individuals in need. Newton County is providing a \$1.1 million match, along with \$2 million in state appropriations, to build an Agricultural Center at the FFA-FCCLA Center in south Newton County. The County's matching funds will be collected under the 2011 SPLOST referendum. There are four teams at the Recreation Complex that will be competing for the World Series.

Oconee County: In Watkinsville, Phase I of the sewer project that runs through the industrial park is complete, and Phase II will begin in the near future. The BOC approved a sewer project in cooperation with Bogart that will provide sewer to businesses and connect to the library. The Legislature appropriated approximately \$2 million for the Bogart library expansion. The BOC has approved a budget, which is up approximately 5%. The millage rate for unincorporated areas will remain at 6.686, and it has remained at that rate for the past 10 years. The Mars Hill widening project is ongoing, and the BOC has approved a rezone on Highway 316 for a Mercedes Benz dealership. Oconee County will be working with the NEGRC to do the update to their Comprehensive Plan.

Oglethorpe County: The County is considering a Beer and Wine by the Drink Ordinance. A Beer Festival will be held on June 26th at Goodness Grows Nursery. The County has completed six miles of resurfacing in Madison County. Courthouse renovations are in the final phase and should be completed by August. The Tax Digest is up, and Jesse Johnson praised Chairman Billy Pittard for the excellent leadership he has provided to the citizens of Oglethorpe County.

Walton County: The County has passed a budget, and the millage rate will remain the same. Flexo Converters USA, a manufacturer and distributor of retail shopping bags, has located in the former Angel Food Ministries facility. The company will create between 75-100 jobs and invest \$20 million into the local community. Three potential economic development projects are looking at the industrial park. The County is paving roads at Hard Labor Creek Reservoir.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit & Finance: The Committee met prior to the Council meeting, and members reviewed the financial statements for the eleven-month period ending May 31, 2016. Revenues exceed expenses by \$19,513. **A motion to accept**

the report as given was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Mr. Bentley. The motion carried unanimously.

Program of Work: The Program of Work Committee met prior to the Council meeting to review the following technical assistance requests for the month:

1. **ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY** – Assistance in advisement on sidewalk policy and funding options in coordination with the Legislative Review Committee. There is no fee for this assistance.
2. **ELBERT COUNTY** – Assistance in preparing an EPA Brownfields grant application for the Martin Fireproofing site. The fee for this assistance is \$1,500.

Based upon recommendation from the Executive Director, **a motion to approve the Program of Work items for inclusion in the FY2016 Program of Work, effective June 16, 2016, was made by Commissioner Keith Ellis and seconded by Mr. Bentley. The motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Government Services: The Regional Plan Work Program was approved by the Council to send to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review. DCA recently completed its review and found that the Work Program meets the state's minimum planning standards and procedures. The 2016-2020 Regional Work Program is ready for adoption by resolution based on the Committee's review. After review, the Committee recommended it be approved, and **a motion to accept the Resolution to adopt the 2016-2020 Regional Work Program was made by Mayor Jerry Roseberry and seconded by Mayor Roy Plott. The motion carried unanimously.**

Personnel: Personnel Committee Chairman Kevin Little met with the Executive Director on May 10th at NEGRC headquarters and conducted his annual evaluation. The Committee met in May to finalize the evaluation, and a copy was forwarded to the full Council for review and comment prior to today's meeting. **A motion to accept the evaluation as presented was made by Commissioner Little and seconded by Mayor Plott. The motion carried unanimously.** The evaluation will be fully executed and placed in the Executive Director's Personnel File.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Dove advised that two Regional Commission Directors will be retiring soon. Ralph Nix with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission will be retiring at the end of June, and Danny Lewis of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission will retire August 9th.

Executive Director Dove will be going to Sandersville on the evening of June 16th to the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission Council meeting, and on June 23rd he will travel to Sharpsburg to visit with the Three Rivers Regional

Commission Council. After this, he will only have two more Regional Commission Councils to attend.

PGS Director Burke Walker will be going to the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Conference in Savannah June 24th – 27th. He will be in charge of the GARC Exhibit.

Executive Director Dove will be attending the Development District Association of Appalachia Summer Board meeting in Chillicothe, Ohio on July 16th. He recently attended the National Association of Development Organizations Summer Board meeting in Couer D'Alene, Idaho.

Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant Mott Beck will be facilitating a retreat for the City of Lexington Mayor and Council on July 21st at NEGRC headquarters. The City of Winterville is planning a session in the near future.

RECOMMENDATON ON THE REVISED FY16 AND THE PROPOSED FY17 BUDGET

Council members were e-mailed copies of the Revised FY2016 and the Proposed FY2017 Budget prior to the meeting. Mr. Turner provided highlights of both budgets. In FY2016, the total expenditures are anticipated to be \$12,770,851, and total revenues are expected to be \$12,774,479. These expected expenditures and revenues will produce an expected excess of revenues over expenses of \$30,791 after the depreciable item is added. The amount necessary to match the different grants is expected to be \$281,478. **A motion to approve the Revised FY2016 Budget was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mayor Linda Blechinger. The motion carried unanimously.** In FY2017, total expenditures are expected to be \$13,589,261, and total revenues are expected to be \$13,618,094. This will result in an expected excess of revenues over expenses of \$28,832. The amount necessary to match our different grants is expected to be \$301,518. Considering the amount of federal and state dollars to be received in FY2017, the leveraging effect of local funds is considerable. The region will receive \$21.58 in federal and state dollars for each dollar of member dues. To comply with Department of Audit recommendations, dues are calculated using the most recent region population figures, and results in a \$7,983 increase in total dues income for FY2017. The FY2017 Budget includes a salary adjustment for Regional Commission staff that results in a 4% increase in total salaries. **A motion to approve the Proposed FY2017 Budget was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Commissioner Little. The motion carried unanimously.**

RECOMMENDATION ON THE FY2017 PROGRAM OF WORK

At this time, Executive Director Dove presented highlights of the FY2017 Program of Work. As in past years, the NEGRC has an ambitious Program of Work and has included all items required by State and Federal grantor agencies. The Regional Commission will be continuing a number of ongoing efforts and will continue to present new technical assistance requests to the Council each month for approval and inclusion

in the Annual Program of Work. **A motion to adopt the FY2017 Budget was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mayor Plott. The motion carried unanimously.**

REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

As customary each year in June, the Council conducts the annual NEGRC evaluation based on Performance Standards adopted in September 2009. Executive Director Dove read the standards, and **a motion stating that the Regional Commission has met the Performance Standards was made by Mayor Roseberry and seconded by Mayor Plott. The motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council will not meet in July. The next meeting will be held on August 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck
Executive Assistant