

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN  
NOVEMBER 17, 2016  
NOON**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Graham, Pat  
Blechinger, Linda  
Jennings, Tommy  
Denson, Nancy  
Ferrelle, Dodd  
Houston, Lamar  
Palmer, Bill  
Crow, Tom  
Plott, Roy  
Trammell, Gene  
Workman, Stone  
Dyer, David  
Dove, Anthony  
Gandy, Roy  
Ellis, Keith  
Roseberry, Jerry  
Turner, Frank  
Davis, Melvin  
Ivie, Charles  
Harden, Amrey  
Little, Kevin  
Chambers, Joyce  
Ledford, Howard  
O'Rourke, Tate

**Members Absent:**

Lyon, Tommy  
Guest, Larry  
Brock, Phil  
Duvall, Valerie  
Shaw, Jim  
Blackmon, Jody  
Warren, Ellen  
Perriman, Fred  
Bentley, David  
Pittard, Billy  
Berry, Rick  
Johnson, Jesse  
Thompson, Greg  
Fordyce, Cary  
Roberts, Roy

**Staff Present:**

Jim Dove, Executive Director  
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant  
Evans Brinson, Comptroller  
Alicia Page, Comptroller  
Burke Walker, Director of Planning & Gov't. Services  
Kenny Gilbert, GIS Manager

**Associate Members Present:**

Horton, Harold  
Seymour, Joel  
Crawford, Charlie

**Guests Present:**

Lynne Riley  
Natalie Lee  
Marcello Banes  
Stanley Thomas  
John Scarborough  
Nancy Bobbitt  
Dan Regenstein  
Chuck Williams  
Sean Roche  
Harold Linnenkohl  
Daniella Perry

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Frank Turner called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He welcomed members, guests, and staff. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. **Such a motion was made by Mayor Linda Blechinger and seconded by Commissioner Gene Trammell. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Audit & Finance:** Members of the Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed the financial statements for the four-month period ending October 31, 2016. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$3,266. Financial activity for the four-month period was approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the FY2017 Budget projections. **A motion to accept the report as given was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Commissioner Anthony Dove. The motion carried unanimously.** The Committee met the new Comptroller, Alicia Page, who comes to the Regional Commission from the City of Gainesville.

In other business, the Committee considered a Flexible Spending Account Plan for Regional Commission employees. This would allow Regional Commission employees to have monies deducted from their pay to go in the Flexible Spending Account where they could pay out-of-pocket medical expenses with pre-tax dollars. The Committee recommends approval of this item, and **a motion to accept this recommendation and approve participation in the Flexible Spending Account Plan for employees was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Commissioner Dove. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

1. **CITY OF PENDERGRASS** – Assistance in updating their Comprehensive Plan. The fee for this assistance is \$3,000.

Based upon recommendation from the Executive Director, **a motion to approve this technical assistance request for the month for inclusion in the FY2017 Program of Work, effective November 17, 2016, was made by Mayor Blechinger and seconded by Mr. Harold Horton. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Dove recognized members of the Council who will be leaving at the end of the year due to their decision not to run for office another term. Oconee County BOC Chairman Melvin Davis was on the Council for 16 years and served four terms. Greene County Chairman Ed Bullard and Newton County Chairman Keith Ellis both served one term each and were members of the Council for four years. Madison County Chairman Anthony Dove served two terms on the Council. He expressed appreciation to all of them for their service to the Council and wished them much happiness in the future.

The GARC Conference at St. Simons was a huge success, with an increase in attendance over the past few years. There were great speakers including DCA Commissioner Camila Knowles, Senator Butch Miller, DOT Board Member Tim Golden and DOT State Engineer Meg Pirkle, Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, and CVIOG

Executive Director Laura Meadows. During the afternoon on Thursday, there were several breakout sessions.

At this time, Executive Director Dove recognized Ms. Page. She is already on board and hard at work, and the Regional Commission is fortunate to have her as a member of the staff.

Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant Mott Beck facilitated the annual retreat for the Oxford Mayor and Council on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Roseberry has so much to be proud of in Oxford, and has a wonderful staff. It is always a pleasure to work with them!

### **UPDATE FROM THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

At this time, Commissioner Lynne Riley gave an update from the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR). She advised that Georgia is beating every state in the Country in revenue collections. Georgia is enjoying a vibrant economy with \$21 billion in revenue collections for FY16, and the state has \$2 billion in a rainy day fund. Priority DOR projects for the coming year include enhanced fraud prevention initiatives (a major problem), new filing dates for 2017 (employers must transmit W-2 data to DOR by January 31<sup>st</sup>), 1099's with GA income tax withheld is due to DOR by January 31<sup>st</sup>, and corporation income tax and net worth returns are now due April 15<sup>th</sup>. New laws enacted in 2016 included HB 951-Renewed the back to school and energy efficient products sales tax holidays (9/30 – 10/2), HB 54-established a program for voluntary donations for education costs of children of fallen public safety workers, SB 258-Created a tax credit for rural hospital charitable support, HB 802-Increased the contribution limit to savings trusts to \$2,000 per donor on joint returns, HB 960-Reduction of interest rate and new information sharing requirements, and SB 369-Allows for referendums in Atlanta and Fulton County for partial penny sales tax collection for transit/transportation.

### **NEXT GENERATION 911**

The next item on the agenda was a report on the Next Generation of 911 (NG911) by Natalie Lee of Michael Baker International. NG911 is an internet Protocol (P)-system that allows digital information (e.g., voice, photos, videos, text messages) to flow seamlessly from the public through the 911 network and on to emergency responders. NG911 will transition from the responsibility of telecom companies to local municipalities by 2020. Local GIS is the central data piece on which NG911 will function, and it requires coordination across jurisdictional boundaries. Funding for this initiative may be coming, but coordination and preparation needs to happen now. By the end of the year 2020, all 911 systems and centers in all 56 states and territories will have sufficiently funded, standards-based 911 capabilities, and will have retired legacy 911 systems, without any degradation in service to the public. Some of the steps to take now are to have conversations with GIS Managers and 911 stakeholders, begin a data assessment and clean-up process, start talking to your neighbors, and learn more and facilitate GIS personnel.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Council will not meet in December. The next meeting will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck  
Executive Assistant