GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Cumming Playhouse
Cumming, GA
February 23, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at the Cumming Playhouse in Cumming, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Cumming.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/DINNER

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to the City of Cumming for hosting the meeting.

Chairman Stovall recognized Cumming Mayor Ford Gravitt for local introductions. Mayor Gravitt, the City of Cumming, City Council and staff welcomed everyone to the Cumming and thanked everyone for attending. Mayor Gravitt stated that Brian Tam, Forsyth County Commissioner and owner of Tam's Backstage Restaurant has a wonderful meal prepared and that immediately following the Council meeting everyone was invited to tour the new Aquatic Center.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Stovall recognized other special guests Kathy Papa, DCA; Cheryl Smith, GEcD; and Keith Franklin. The Chairman also recognized two previous GMRDC Board Members Linda Heard and Harrison Tallant.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the January 26, 2012 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by J.B. Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis commended Tom O'Bryant and White County for the excellent job that they did on February 21st with the ribbon cutting for the North Georgia Network Project. This Broadband project will start in Atlanta and will loop through the northern counties of White, Habersham and Pickens and the second phase will continue from there to Franklin County. When both of the phases of the project are complete, we will be the first region in Georgia to have full Broadband. This will make a big difference in economic development through tourism and business. Mr. Lewis expressed his thanks to everyone involved in this project.

John Phillips and the Workforce Development staff have been working in the counties making assessments and personal contacts. They are visiting two counties per month which would allow each county in our region to be visited twice per year. John has also been working with the court system on an idea that he had of including as part of offender's sentence, that they obtain a GED before being released back into society. He feels this will make them a better citizen.

Staff Reports

Economic Development Department – Heather Feldman, Director of Economic Development reported the Economic Development staff are presently administering $6.9M in grants. Also they are working to get eleven grants submitted. They are working on two (2) ARC grants for Franklin Springs - sewer improvements and Dawsonville - sewer improvements; four (4) CDBG grants for Banks County - infrastructure improvements, City of Cornelia – Phase III infrastructure improvements, Mountain City – drainage improvements, and Union County – senior center expansion; and three (3) OneGeorgia grants for Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority – IMS Gear, Joint Development Authority of Banks, Habersham, and Rabun Counties – Rabun Co. Business Park, and Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart, and Stephens Counties – NGA Network Broadband East.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of January 31, 2012 showed a bank balance of $299,682, receivables of $165,366 and payables of $276,842, with an uncommitted cash balance of $188,842. The Income-Expense Report for the period of July 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012 indicated income of $438,519, expenses of $555,646, accounts receivable of $174,124, with 58 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Angela Whidby made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Ralph Perry. Motion carried.

PROGRAM

Chairman Stovall introduced Mr. Harris Blackwood, Director of Governor's Office of Highway Safety who spoke to the audience on the "CarFit" Program. This is a two year program that is

designed to help keep people safe behind the wheel of their vehicle. When evaluated, 37% of the senior adults have something wrong with the way their vehicle is set-up for them. Sometimes it may only be that someone needs to evaluate and recommend a seat adjustment, tilt steering adjustment, or the proper way to adjust the seat belt. This program is to teach elderly people how to adjust their car to fit them and is done at no cost to them. Mr. Harris stated that they need the help of the cities and counties to identify spots to set up these check stations. Mr. Craig Towns has been hired as the Event Coordinator and will be looking for technicians and volunteers to help with the check stations. They need help in identifying the retirement groups, church senior programs, and other senior organizations. They will also be conducting these checks at local festivals, fairs, etc. in our region. It has been recommended that combine the "CarFit" locations with the check points for baby car seats. This is a pilot program and the grant has been issued to Georgia Mountains RC for administration. Ms. Faith Bryan will be the Regional Commission contact.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, thanked everyone for securing their sponsors for last year's Annual Meeting. Evaluation forms were sent out and according to the comments there needed to be some changes made to next year's event. Some felt that the event, as a whole, took too long. The Committee discussed ways of trimming the time and decided to tighten everything up and be out by 9:00 p.m. Our total count for meals was 350 and some felt it was over crowded. This year, we will send out the information earlier and have a cutoff number of 300 tickets on a first-come first-serve basis. She encouraged everyone to go ahead and mark their calendar for December 7th for this year's Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle Bids

Mr. Lewis informed the Council he had previously notified the City/County Managers and Chambers of Commerce for the name of new vehicle dealerships in their area. Bids will be sent out next week to all these dealerships for one (1) new vehicle. It was approved in this year's budget to purchase a new vehicle for the fleet. The bids were for an SUV or crossover vehicle. One of the Crown Vics in our fleet may be assigned to WIA in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall announced that the July 26th Council Meeting will be sponsored by Towns County. This completes sponsorship for all the meetings in 2012. Next month's meeting will be held in White County at Truett McConnell College.

Mayor Gravitt again thanked everyone for coming. He also recognized from Forsyth County Ralph Perry, Cumming City Councilman; Kevin Tallant, Lt. Governor's Appointment; and Paul Kreager, Governor's Appointment who serve on the GMRC Council.

Mayor Gravitt invited everyone to tour their new Aquatic Center which was completed last year. It contains a lazy river, indoor Olympic, therapeutic, and kiddie pools. They have sponsored several swim meets and can accommodate up to 11,000 seating for these events. He gave directions to the facility.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

David Stovall, Chairman

L.J. Harrison, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2011-2012

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/28/11	8/25/11	9/29/11	10/27/11	11/17/11	12/2/11	1/26/12	2/23/12	3/29/12	4/26/12	5/31/12	6/28/12
BANKS	Sammy Reece	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	A				
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A				
	Leslie George	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P				
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
	Calvin Byrd	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	A				
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
FORSYTH	Jim Boff							(N) P	A				
	Ralph Perry	P	A	A	A	A	P	P	P				
	James McCoy	P	A	P	P	A	A	A	P				
FRANKLIN	Angela Whidby	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Ralph Owens	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
HABERSHAM	Lee Mulkey	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A				
	Todd Pealock	(N)P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A				
HALL	Vacant												
	George Wangemann	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	P				
	Deborah Mack	A	P	A	A	A	P	P	P				
HART	Bill Myers	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	A				
	Tray Hicks	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	P				
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
LUMPKIN	Dr. John Raber	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A				
	Sam Norton**	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A				
	J.B. Jones	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P				

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RABUN	Stan Darnell	(N)A	A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
	Debbie Chisholm	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P				
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A				
	Ron Seib	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	P				
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
TOWNS	Bill Kendall			P	P (R)	P(R)	P	P(R)	P(R)				
	Andrea Gibby							P(N)	A				
	David Stovall*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P				
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P				
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P (R)	P	P(R)	P	A	P(R)				
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	P				
	Bill Black	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Paul Kreager	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P				
	Will Wade	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P				
LT. GOV. APPT.	Kevin Tallant	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P				
SPEAKER APPT.	Peter Hill	P(N)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				

P = PRESENT A = ABSENT * = REPRESENTED V = VACANCY E = EXCUSED (N) = NEW MEMBER

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary