

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center
Lavonia, GA
August 30, 2012

MINUTES

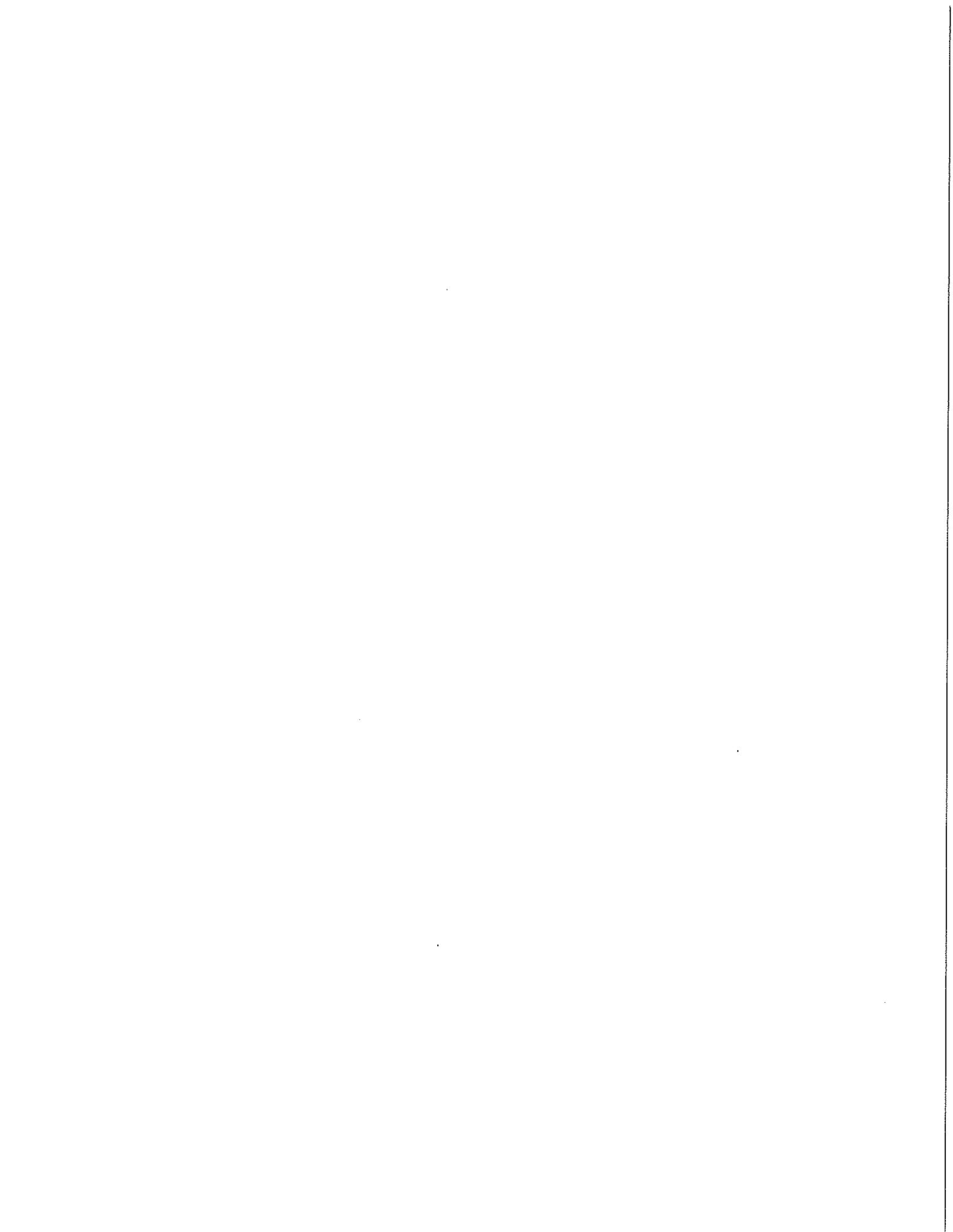
The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center in Lavonia, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Franklin County and Cities of Canon, Carnesville, Franklin Springs, Lavonia, and Royston.

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 Franklin County and its Cities for hosting this meeting in their beautiful new facility.

Chairman Stovall recognized Franklin County Commissioner Angela Whidby for local introductions. Ms. Whidby thanked everyone for attending and welcome everyone to the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center. She encouraged everyone to take time to look around the new facility. Ms. Whidby introduced Billy Morse, Franklin County Manager; Bubba Samuels, Franklins County Attorney; and three newly elected Franklin County officials, Robert Franklin, Thomas Bridges, David Strickland. Representing the Cities were Lee Moore, Mayor of Franklin Springs and City Council Member, Jim Gainey; Ralph Owens, Mayor of City of Lavonia; Don Canady, David Howell, and Harold Harbin, Lavonia City Council Members; Gary Fesperman, City Manager; and Margaret Ayers; Ray Morgan, Mayor of City of Canon; Lyn Allen, Franklin County Industrial Development Authority; and David Jordan, Royston City Manager. Ms. Whidby expressed special thanks to Rep. Alan Powell and Denise Mathews with the Franklin County Citizen for attending.

Chairman Stovall introduced David Seagraves, Chief CEO for Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center. David Seagraves extended to everyone a very warm welcome to the new hospital facility and encouraged everyone to "check it out". The hospital has 155,000 sq. ft. of hospital space and 33,000 sq. ft. of medical office space, which is completely filled with physicians from the neighboring counties. He referenced the art work that decorates the hallways of the hospital. All of the pictures were submitted previously by individuals for an art contest. There are approximately 500 photographs that are displayed that were taken in the hospital's service area that show the beauty of this region.



INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Stovall recognized other special guests, Tate O'Rourke, Aide to Sen. Isakson's Office and her husband, Patrick; and Kathy Papa, DCA.

Due to the primary election results, Chairman Stovall stated that GMRC have seven new seats to be filled on the Council by 2013. He introduced and welcomed two new Council Members, Sonny James, Habersham County Commissioner and James Grogan, City of Dawsonville Mayor.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Bill Chafin, Chairman of the CEDS Committee explained to the Council that GMRC must prepare a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document each year and it must be submitted and approved by EDA. Mr. Chafin introduced Heather Feldman, Director of the Economic Development for a presentation on the CEDS process.

Ms. Feldman thanked Mr. Chafin for being an active CEDS Committee Member and recognized all other Council Members that serve on the CEDS Committee. She also recognized GMRC staff Nancy Smallwood, Patrick Larson, and John Phillips that also worked on the CEDS document.

Ms. Feldman explained that the CEDS is a strategic planning process with the region's vision for economic growth and development, strategies and goals listed. This document is prepared annually and completely re-written every five years. It must be approved by EDA to secure funding and be eligible for EDA grants for local government's economic development projects. The Committee has met with public officials, community leaders, representatives from workforce development boards and education institutes, minority and labor groups, and private sector individuals to get their input into this document. The document was broken down into seven topics: Infrastructure, Business and Industry, Education and Workforce Development, Housing, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Performance Metrics, and Regional Priority Projects. Each topic must have a goal statement and discuss its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for categories that fall under each topic. Ms. Feldman and staff discussed each topic and answered questions regarding the document. This document must be reviewed and approved by the Council before it is submitted the EDA.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the July 26, 2012 meeting. Dean Scarborough made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by John Raber. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis stated that due to the outcome of the primary elections, we have a significant turn over in elected officials. The RC will possibly have seven or eight new Council Members. The GMRC has the task of letting these people know who we are, what the RC does, and how the RC can help them. Training sessions will be planned between now and January 1.

Auditors have been in the RC Office for the past week working on our annual audit. Since taking over Workforce Development, our audit is significantly larger. The Auditors finished today with the in-office work and will finish up in their offices. We will be presenting the Audit to the Council at the November meeting.

Danny, John Phillips, Becky Sievers, and Nona Turk previously met with Tricia Pridemore, Executive Director of Governor Deal's Office of Workforce Development. Their office has been very helpful to the revision of the GMRC-WD Program. Ms. Pridemore stated that the purchase of the two new mobile units to be used for training was a "very smart move".

He also thanked Mike Berg, Chairman of the CCEO for allowing the RC to handle Workforce Development program.

Holly Hunt will be working a couple of days a week out of our office. Holly handles the Georgia Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Program for DCA. Working out of our office will keep her from driving into the Atlanta office every day.

Financial Report

Mr. Lewis stated that due to Becky working diligently the last couple of weeks with the auditors, he had excused her from attending tonight's meeting. Mr. Lewis presented the Financial Report. The Cash Position as of July 31, 2012 showed a bank balance of \$572,376, receivables of \$128,839 and payables of \$387,939, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$313,276. The Income-Expense Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – July 31, 2012 indicated income of \$93,740, expenses of \$107,203, accounts receivable of \$13,463, with 8 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Angela Whidby. Motion carried.

Mr. Lewis stated that they are looking at making some changes to the format of our financial reports.

Awards

Chairman Stovall recognized Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris for receiving the Tourism Champion in Government Award from the Governor's Office. This award was given

for showing extraordinary support by an elected official and was presented at the Annual Governor's Tourism Conference in August.

Also, this is the 5th year the GMRC has received one or more NADO (National Association of Development Organization) awards. We have been notified that we have received this year's award for the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center project.

OLD BUSINESS

2012 Annual Meeting

Ms. Leslie George, Annual Meeting Committee Chairman, reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting will be held on December 7th at the Dillard House Conference Center and reminded everyone to order their tickets early due to limited number of seats. Save-the-Date cards have been sent out and the ticket deadline is November 19th. Tickets will be on a first-come first-serve basis. She also reminded everyone that we could not have this event without our sponsors. We will be sending out a list of sponsors that have been secured. She asked Council Members to start thinking of sponsors they could contact.

NEW BUSINESS

50th Anniversary of GMRC

Chairman Stovall informed the Council that this organization has been in some form of government entity for 50 years. This year's Annual Meeting will be our 50th Anniversary.

CEDS Review

Heather Feldman stated that GMRC is required to do a 30 day review of the CEDS document. It has been emailed to Council Members for their review and also it has been placed on our website. John Raber made a motion to place the document on the table for review for the next 30 days and was seconded by Tray Hicks. Motion carried.

GARC Annual Conference

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions Annual Meeting will be held at the King and Prince Resort in St. Simons Island on November 7-9, 2012. Mr. Lewis thanked everyone that had previously attended. GMRC usually carries one of the largest groups of the RCs in Georgia. There will be great speakers and this would a good time to communicate with the other city/county and state officials. GMRC has a block of rooms reserved. If you plan to attend, please let Peggy know to reserve your room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Lewis informed the Council of the passing of one of the Workforce Development staff member. Heather Smith was employed with GMRC as an Adult Case Manager. Heather passed

away suddenly on August 29th. Mr. Lewis asked the Council to keep her family and children in their thoughts and prayers.

Chairman Stovall announced that the September 27th Council Meeting would be on at The Currahee Club in Toccoa. This meeting will be sponsored by Stephens County and City of Toccoa.

DOOR PRIZES

Door prizes, provided by Franklin County and the Cities, were awarded to lucky recipients of numbers drawn.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary