

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
City Park Recreation Building
Cumming, Georgia
January 26, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the City Park Recreation Building in Cumming, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Cumming.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. City of Cumming's Mayor, Ford Gravitt welcomed everyone to Cumming and their newest recreation/conference facility. He recognized City Council Members Linda Ledbetter, Christopher Light, Quincy Holton, and Chuck Welch; City Administrator Gerald Blackburn, Planning Director Scott Morgan, Administrative Assistant Crystal Ledford, and City Attorney Kevin Tallant. Representing Forsyth County were Commission Chairman Todd Levent and Commissioners Cindy Mills and Pete Amos; James McCoy and Robert Long with the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Gravitt thanked Tam's Backstage for providing the meal.

Chairman Scarborough thanked City of Cumming for hosting this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Secretary George Wangemann recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Andrew Seaver, Sen. Perdue's Office; Al Hermann, Small Business Development Center, and Tate O'Rourke and Ed Mienie, University of North Georgia.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Deborah Mack gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Commissioner Russell McMurry with the Georgia Department of Transportation presented a very informative program on transportation issues and projects that will affect our 13 county region. When we think of transportation, we normally think of roads. Mr. McMurry spoke on all aspects of transportation such as roads, bridges, airports, railroads, and ports.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the December 2, 2016 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Jim Conley. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough thanked the Annual Meeting Committee for the great job that they did in preparation for the 2016 Annual Meeting. He also thanked the Council Members for securing the sponsors that allowed this event.

The beginning of a new year always brings changes to the Council due to the newly elected city/county officials taking office. Chairman Scarborough welcomed and recognized new Council Members; Todd Levent, Forsyth County; Thomas Bridges, Franklin County; Natalie Crawford, Habersham County; Cliff Bradshaw, Towns County; and Billy Thurmond, Dawson County. We are waiting for notification from Hall County as to whether Richard Higgins will serve or if he will appoint another elected official to represent them.

At the Annual Meeting in December, Kathy Papa was the recipient of Chairman's Award, but was unable to attend. Chairman Scarborough presented Ms. Papa with her award and thanked her for her support of the Regional Commission and to our region. She is the Department of Community Affairs' Regional Representative for our area.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman introduced Mr. Daniel Martin. Mr. Martin is the new GMRC Economic Development Director. He resides in Hiawassee and is an Auburn University graduate. He has come in at the busiest time for the Economic Development Department and has hit the road running.

WorkSource has been extremely busy this week with auditors in their office conducting the Program Year 2015 Annual Audit. Tomorrow morning the auditors will present their final report.

February 23rd is the GMRC Council Training. Training will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Helen City Hall. The last training was conducted was in 2012. This training will not be the same as the previous ones. At this session, along with training, we want to listen to what the Council has to say. All Council Members are required to attend training. Ms. Feldman stated that she wants this RC to be the best in the state.

Surveys have been sent out to all 51 local governments that make up our region to see how the RC is performing and also to find out future opportunities for the RC. Ms. Feldman stated, "You don't know where you're going unless you know where you have been". The RC wants to hear from our cities and counties as to what we can do for them and what they have to say.

Congratulations to Hart County Library for receiving the Library of the Year Award by the Georgia Library Association. We are proud to have this #1 library in our region.

At Georgia Municipal Association Mayor's Day event, two of our Council Members, Sam Norton and Tray Hicks, received an award for the number of training hours they had received.

Financial Report

Ms. Feldman introduced Andrea Newsom as the Interim Director of Finance. Ms. Newsom thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Presenting the Financial Report for December, the Cash Position as of December 31, 2016 showed a bank balance of \$1,082,887, receivables of \$139,653, and payables of \$31,083, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$1,253,403. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$2,371,201, Expenditures of \$1,349,206, with 50 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Sam Norton made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Andrea Gibby. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

New WorkSource Office Location

Back in October the Council, Workforce Development Board, and the LEO Board had approved for the RC to move forward with securing the new WD Office location in the Sherwood Building. During negotiations, we were notified that the landlord had decided to demolish the strip shopping center, so that put us back to square one. The first item that needed to be taken care of was extending the lease on the Hilton Drive office location, which expired December 31, 2016, until another office could be located. With the lease extension being completed, the search for another building began. The location that is being presented tonight is the Chattahoochee Center located on Thompson Bridge Road. This is a very visible location. The section of this building that we are looking at has 9,000+ SF, 50 parking spaces, over 30 offices, and six restrooms. On July 1, 2017 the OneStop must be up and running. For WorkSource Georgia Mountains to operate the OneStop, it must be located in a facility where core partners of the OneStop operation will have a physical appearance at this location. This building has plenty of space for these partners. MOUs would be done with all partners and they would be cost sharing.

The cost for this building is \$11.50 SF with \$1.50 common area maintenance fee which totals \$13.00 per SF. The total would be \$121,264 annual or \$10,105 monthly. This is doubling our current amount, but we are also doubling the space. The moving fee would be approximately \$20,000. The building would need some renovations such as interior painting, replacing carpet, updated computer network wiring, security system, and removal of sinks from some of the rooms. We are negotiating for a carpet allowance. The funds for rent and the move will come from the WorkSource budget. No money will come out of RC dues. We also would apply to the State for funds for signage for the building.

Chairman Scarborough asked for any questions. There being none, Charlie Auvermann made a motion to proceed with negotiating and securing this building for the new WorkSource location. Motion was seconded by Jim Conley and passed unanimously.

US Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey

Faith Bryan, Information Services Director, informed the Council that in December information was sent to the highest elected city and county official regarding the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). This survey is the way that the city/county ensures that their boundaries match

with the Census Bureau's boundaries. If there are no changes you should respond accordingly, but if there are changes that need to be made you must make the Census Bureau aware by participating in the survey. There are funds through the Department of Community Affairs that will allow the RC to assist you with the survey. Several cities and counties have already signed up for the RC to assist them. This information is important for grant funding, transportation infrastructure, SPLOST or LOST funds, and Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). LUCA is the pre-requisite to the 2020 Census Count. There will also be additional funding through DCA to help with the LUCA project. If you have any questions regarding any of the projects, please contact the RC office.

DOOR PRIZES

City of Cumming provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's Council meeting and training will be sponsored by City of Helen at the City Hall on February 23, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary