

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Habersham EMC Office
Clarkesville, GA
February 25, 2016

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Habersham EMC Office in Clarkesville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Habersham County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Habersham County Commissioner and GMRC Council Member Sonny James welcomed everyone to Habersham County. He recognized Habersham County Commission Chair Natalie Crawford, Commissioner Victor Anderson, and Mike Beecham, Planning and Development Director. Mr. James expressed his appreciation to Phil Sutton for making all the meeting arrangements.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Joel Katz, Aide with Rep. Collins' Office; Andrew Seavers, Aide with Sen. Perdue's Office; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Paul Chambers, AT&T; Bruce Cutler and Marjory Wooten, Small Business Development Center.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Georgia Tourism Program and Services

Ms. Heather Feldman introduced our speaker Ms. Cheryl Smith. Ms. Smith is the Northeast Georgia Regional Tourism Project Manager for Georgia Department of Economic Development. She has worked with tourism since 1988 and is the Tourism Manager for 17 counties in northeast Georgia, including the GMRC 13 counties. There are nine travel regions in Georgia and nine Tourism Project Managers which live in their region. Ms. Smith explained the Tourism brings significant business growth, jobs, and increased revenue to each region. It is a \$57.1 billion industry for the state. The 12 Visitor Information Centers are located on the top ranked roads/interstates and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and are filled with tourism opportunities in Georgia. The Northeast Georgia Mountains are filled with tourist attractions such as our mountains, waterfalls, parks, rivers, and vineyards. We need to let tourists know what is available in our cities and counties.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the January 28, 2016 meeting. Ken Schubring made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis thanked Chairman Scarborough for participating in the quarterly Georgia Association of Regional Commission's (GARC) Board and Policy Officials Meeting.

GARC has informed the Regional Commissions that Carl Vinsion Institute will be offering a training program for Council Members. This would be a two-day training in Athens. GMRC is concerned about expenses and is looking into offering a similar training program done by the RC attorney, auditor, and staff for our Council. The Council stated by a show of hands that they would prefer a one-day training.

Mr. Lewis and several staff members will be attending the DDAA Conference in Washington, DC the first week in April.

Mr. Lewis introduced the new Dawsonville City Manager, David Headley and thanked him for hosting the Spring City/County Managers meeting. The GMRC region has several new City/County Managers – David Headley; Randall Dowling, Dawson County Manager; Bryan Lackey, Gainesville City Manager; and Beth Thomas, Franklin County Manager. He welcomed them to the region. Jerry Elkins, Helen City Manager, along with Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) will be co-hosting the Summer City/County Managers meeting in Helen on June 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for January. The Cash Position as of January 31, 2016 showed a bank balance of \$1,139,884, receivables of \$140,584 and payables of \$388,590, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$891,878. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$2,636,142, Expenditures of \$2,559,988, with 58 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Leslie George made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment to GMRC Bylaws

A Bylaws Amendment addressing the Council and Staff receiving door prizes, was sent to the Council for their review. Questions regarding this issue were brought up in our last Audit. Attorney Kevin Tallant read a resolution regarding the change to the Bylaws and stated the Bylaws have been changed to clarify that door prizes that are awarded at GMRC meetings are open to the public and any member of the public in attendance at these meetings are equally

eligible to win a door prize and as long as the members of the Council and staff are treated the same and have the same chances as anyone attending the meeting to win a door prize they are eligible. David Austin made a motion to approve this change to the Bylaws, seconded by Doug Wayne, and motion carried unanimously.

Change of Date for April Meeting

The April Council Meeting scheduled to be held in Banks County will conflict with the ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah which the County Commissioners attend. Banks County has agreed that the meeting could be moved to April 21st. Leslie George made a motion to approve moving the April Council meeting to the 21st. Ken Schubring seconded and motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Amend the Agenda

James Grogan made a motion to amend the Agenda for an item of discussion. Motion was seconded by George Wangemann and vote was unanimous.

GCCMA 60th Anniversary Resolution

GMRC prepared a Resolution recognizing the Georgia City County Managers Association on their 60th Anniversary. The Resolution will be signed and forwarded to them. Brian Tam made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by L.J. Harrison and motion carried unanimously.

SBDC StartSmart Classes

Bruce Cutler with the Small Business Development Center in Gainesville announced a new series StartSmart classes that will be offered through their office. The five week program is for small businesses and will begin on March 22nd. Information brochures were made available.

Agenda Amendment – Creation of New Staff Position

Chairman Scarborough commended Mr. Lewis for the great job that he has done and for the work that the staff has accomplished under his leadership. Mr. Lewis has informed the Officers and Executive Committee that he will be retiring sometime between August 1st and December 31st. When this time comes, we would like have a smooth transition with the new person that will fill this position. The Chairman appointed and met with the committee comprised of the two Past Chairmen and the current Vice Chairman to discuss how to handle this transition. This Committee came up with a plan for the Executive Director to begin a search for a Temporary Deputy Executive Director. This person would come from within the staff. Mr. Lewis would then be charged with training this person in his duties and responsibilities. This person would still be responsible for their original job position plus the additional duties of the Deputy Executive Director position. Then upon knowledge of exact date of Mr. Lewis' retirement, the Chairman would appoint a Search Committee for the New Executive Director. The Deputy Executive Director would be responsible for training this person when hired. Chairman Scarborough stated that what is being asked of the Council is for them to approve the new temporary position of Deputy Executive Director and for Mr. Lewis to be authorized to appoint the person for this position.

Tray Hicks made a motion to approve the creation of the new position and Mr. Lewis to make this appointment. J.B. Jones seconded the motion. Discussion – After lengthy discussion it was determined that Mr. Lewis would make the appointment of the Temporary Deputy Executive Director and bring back to the Council at the March meeting a budget amendment which would include the compensation and benefit package for the new temporary position. A job description for the new position has already been compiled. The Bylaws state that the only position that the Council hires is the Executive Director. The Chairman would decide when to appoint the Search Committee for the hiring of the New Executive Director.

Chairman Scarborough called for a vote. Motion carried with three opposing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

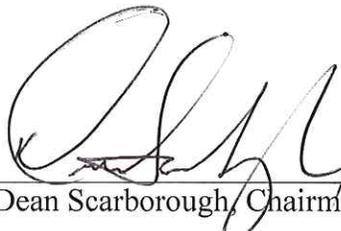
The March Council Meeting will be sponsored by Franklin County and City of Lavonia and will be held at the Lavonia Depot/Welcome Center. Mr. Zach Johnson with Georgia Department of Administrative Services will be our speaker.

DOOR PRIZES

Habersham County provided a number of door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2015-2016**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/30/15	8/27/15	9/24/15	10/29/15	11/19/15	12/4/15	1/28/16	2/25/16	3/31/16	4/28/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	P	P	P	P				
	Jerry Payne	P	P (R)	P	A	P (R)	P	P (R)	P				
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P				
	Mike Berg	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	P				
DAWSON	James Grogan**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Charlie Auvermann	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P				
	Brian Tam	A	A	P	P (R)*	A	P (R)	P (R)*	P				
FORSYTH	Welch, Chuck			P (N)	P	A	P	P	A				
	Robert Long								P				
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P (R)				
	Ralph Owens	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P				
	Gerald Voyles	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Audrey Turner	A	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P				
HALL	Ken Schubring	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P				
	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)				
	George Wangemann***	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	P				
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P				
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	A	P	A	A	P	P				
	Tray Hicks	A	P	A	A	P	P	P (R)	P				
	Bill Chafin	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A				
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	A	P	A	P	A	P	P (R)	P				
	Sam Norton	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	A				
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				

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RABUN	Greg James	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)				
	Debbie Chisholm	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P				
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P				
	David Austin	A	P	P	A	A	P	P	P				
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P				
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P (R)				
	Andrea Gibby							P	P				
	David Stovall	P	P	A	P (R)*	P	P	P	A				
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A				
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P				
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)*	A	P	P (R)*	A	P	P (R)*	P				
	Annie Stutton	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
	Bill Black	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P				
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
		V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V				
	Will Wade	P	A	P	E	A	A	P	P				
SPEAKER APPT.		V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V				
	Peter Hill	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	P				

P = PRESENT A = ABSENT R = REPRESENTED V = VACANCY E = EXCUSED N = NEW MEMBER * = PROXY

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary

A RESOLUTION OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION; TO ENACT CLEAR ETHICS PROVISIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EMUMERATION OF CERTAIN PERMISSIBLE AND IMPERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES BY ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (“GMRC”) is a State Chartered Agency created and established by O.C.G.A. § 50-8-32 *et. seq.*, consisting of members which are each county and municipality within the boundaries of the GMRC; and,

WHEREAS, the GMRC is empowered by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia to adopt bylaws to govern and conduct its affairs pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-35 ; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the GMRC is its Council as established by O.C.G.A. § 50-8-34; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the GMRC has determined that it is desirable and necessary to amend the Bylaws of the GMRC; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution to amend the Bylaws of the GMRC is being sent to the Council of the GMRC at least ten (10) days prior to the date on which the Council will consider for adoption the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the GMRC; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the GMRC has recommended approval of the amendments to the Bylaws of the GMRC included herein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority deems it essential to the proper operation of government agencies and the public’s trust in the same that the public officials be, and give the appearance of being, independent, impartial, and responsible to the people; that governmental decisions and policies be made in the proper channels of the governmental structure; and that public office not be used for personal gain; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Bylaws amendment is to fulfill that goal of the GMRC.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted to the GMRC, the Council of the GMRC hereby RESOLVES as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONS OF THE BYLAWS OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION CONCERNING ETHICS.

Article XV, Ethics, § (4)(d) is hereby deleted in its entirety, and in its place there shall be a new Article XV, Ethics, § 4(d) which shall read and provide as follows:

Article XV, § 4(d) No Official shall directly or indirectly receive, or agree to receive, any compensation, gift, reward, or gratuity in any matter or proceeding connected with, or related to, the duties of his office except as may be provided by law. The foregoing notwithstanding, neither this provision nor any other provision of these Bylaws shall prohibit an Official or any member of an Official's family from participating in random drawings held at GMRC meetings, which are open to the public, and receiving any prize awarded thereby so long as any member of the public in attendance at the said meeting is provided an equal chance to participate in the random drawing and is equally eligible to win the same prize.

SECTION 2. INCORPORATION AND REPEALING CLAUSE.

All portions of the Bylaws of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission not expressly repealed or amended herein are by this provision hereby reaffirmed and incorporated, it being the intent of the Council of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to reaffirm its Bylaws as amended by this Resolution. Any other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby expressly repealed.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its approval by the Council of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

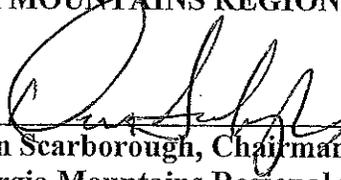
VOTE:

32 Present at the Meeting

32 In Favor of the Resolution

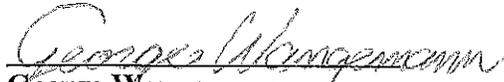
Ø Against the Resolution

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION



Dean Scarborough, Chairman of the Council of the
Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Attest:



George Wangemann

Secretary