

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
First United Methodist Church Fellowship
Homer, Georgia
February 22, 2018

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship in Homer, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Banks County Commission and Town of Homer.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Secretary George Wangemann called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Jerry Payne, Town of Homer Councilman welcomed everyone to Town of Homer and recognized with the Town, Mayor Doug Cheek, Town Council members James Dumas, Cliff Hill, and Sandra Garrison; Clerk Carol Ayers, and Assistant Clerk Tracey King. County Commission Chairman Jimmy Hooper also welcomed everyone to Banks County and recognized those attending for Banks County as Commissioners David Duckett, Charles Turk, and Sammy Reece; County Clerk Jenni Gailey, Assistant Clerk Erin Decker, Fire Chief Steve Nichols, Tax Commissioner Becky Carlan, and Leslie George who serves as Banks County's private sector representative on the GMRC Council.

Secretary Wangemann thanked Town of Homer and Banks County Commission for hosting this meeting and also to the Gwinnett Retired Firefighters for preparing the meal.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

GMRC Executive Director Heather Feldman recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Andrew Seaver, Sen. Perdue's Office; and Bruce Cutler, Small Business Development Center.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Deputy Commissioner Rusty Haygood with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) presented a very informative program. Mr. Haygood spoke about ways that GMRC works with DCA on projects; introduced two new programs; and how the goal of DCA and the RC is to be a partner with our communities.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Wangemann asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the January 25, 2018 meeting. Bill Black made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Feldman informed the Council that on February 13th, five members of Department of Community Affairs' Planning Division conducted a one day training session at the RC office with the GMRC Planning, GIS, and Economic Development staff. DCA staff did a great job in presenting topics such as local government compliance, comprehensive planning, surveys, regional plan, and the Rural Zone Program.

Daniel Martin and Ms. Feldman recently attended the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Regional POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Workshop. This grant is a congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. GMRC is working with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission on applying for POWER funding for a regional project.

Adam Hazell, Director of Planning and the Planning Department will be hosting a workshop next week on Tiny Houses. Kim Bucciero of Tiny House Atlanta will speak on the evolution of the industry, what developers and residents want in tiny homes, and how various communities have addressed the phenomena through local codes and permits.

The State of Georgia has been awarded a United States Geological Survey (USGS) 3D Elevation Program grant for the acquisition of elevation data for 67 Georgia counties -- over one third of the State. Of the 67 counties, 10 of the 13 GMRC counties will receive high precision elevation data. This data supports key activities such as economic development, infrastructure and construction management, agriculture and farming, forest resource management, flood risk management, and enhanced public safety. Congrats to Faith who worked with the State Geographic Information Office (GIO) on this project on behalf of our local communities!!

Ms. Feldman announced that two employees were promoted from within for two vacant positions at the RC. Whitney Williams has been promoted to the Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor for WorkSource and she is replacing Diana Eddins-Wiggin. Whitney previously held the position of Outreach Coordinator for the WorkSource office. Karen Clark also replaced Marissa Smith as our new Administrative Secretary for the GMRC Ridge Road Office. She has been with GMRC for almost a year, but has also been working in the WorkSource Department until this month. Congratulations to both in their new jobs.

Last month, it was announced that GMRC would be hosting a Newly Elected Official training at the GMRC Office on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding by noon. Ms. Feldman encouraged all the city and county newly elected officials to attend this training to learn more about the programs and services offered by the GMRC and how we can better serve your city or county. All planning to attend need to RSVP to Peggy Lovell.

Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega will be sponsoring the next City and County Managers meeting on Wednesday, February 28th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lumpkin County Parks & Recreation Community Center. Ms. Feldman encouraged all City and County Managers to attend.

Information Services Report

Faith Bryan, Information Services Director gave an update of several major projects that this department is working on. First is the Map-21 project. Staff has completed two portions of the project for Hall County which contained validation of road and capturing road names, and now they are compiling traffic control devices for Hall County. They currently are working with Dawson County compiling their ownership of roads. The next project is LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses), which is done through a contract with DCA. Staff who will be working on this project is Faith Bryan, Adam Hazell, Brandon Carlock, Caleb Davidson, and Joe Rothwell and they will be updating 38 entities in our region. They only have 120 days turn-around time on this project, from the time the address data base is received and compare it to the information the cities/counties have. BAS (Boundary Annexation Surveys) is another project that goes hand-in-hand with the LUCA project. This project verifies that the city limit boundaries are correct before the census takers go out. If the city limit boundaries are not correct, some may not be counted inside the city limits and the census count would be incorrect. GMRC are handling surveys for Carnesville, Dawsonville, Clermont, Young Harris, Maysville, Blairsville and Hartwell. The largest project for the Information Services Department is the Aerial Photography project. This project covers 21 counties and 5 cities covering 58,000 sq. miles and includes 5 different regional commission areas. Ms. Bryan referred to a map showing which counties have already been flown. Out of the 21 counties, 18 are involved also in the LiDAR Grant. Other projects that the staff are working on are Towns County 2016 parcel updates; zoning maps for City of Toccoa, Cornelia, Lavonia, and Hartwell; water and sewer updates for Dawsonville and Lavonia; establishing voter districts and sidewalk mapping for City of Dawsonville; and preparing an overlay which shows new burials for the Mt. Hope Cemetery in the City of Dahlonega. As you can see this department is really busy!

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of Finance Policies and Procedures

Bill Chafin, Finance Committee Chairman gave a brief explanation of the new GMRC Finance Policies and Procedures. This document is a combined version of WorkSource and GMRC's previous Policies and Procedures that has been combined into one manual. The previous policies primarily handled purchasing and procurement, and internal financial controls and policies were added to make it more transparent. The Finance Committee previously approved this document and it was emailed to the Council at the end of January for their review and no updates or changes have been made to the document since that time. Bill Chafin made a motion to adopt the Finance Policies and Procedures as presented. J.B. Jones seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Rex Farmer, Nominating Committee Chairman stated that last month the Nominating Committee presented the name of Sam Norton as a nomination for the vacant Vice Chairman position. Mr. Farmer placed Sam Norton's name on the floor as a nomination and Ricky Carter seconded. The floor was opened for any other nominations. There being none, a motion was made by Doug Wayne to close the floor for nominations. Secretary Wangemann called for a vote and motion carried. Mr. Norton will serve as Vice Chairman for the term remaining until June 30, 2019. Mr. Farmer thanked the Nominating Committee for their work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Organization of Ethics Recertification

Ms. Feldman stated that in 2014 the Council authorized and adopted a Resolution for the RC to be designated as an Organization of Ethics by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). This was a four year certification and the RC is up for recertification. Ms. Feldman read the Resolution. If the RC votes to be recertified, the Resolution will need to be signed by each Council Member. This is due to GMA by April 30th and if the Council votes to do this the RC will be recognized at the GMA Conference in June. Bill Chafin made a motion to recertify as an Organization of Ethics. Leslie George seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously. Peggy Lovell made the Resolution available for the Council Member to sign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Cutler with University of Georgia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) announced that they will be having a StartSmart seminar for small businesses in March. He referred to flyers placed on the tables regarding this workshop. There are limited spaces available. He encouraged people to register on their website.

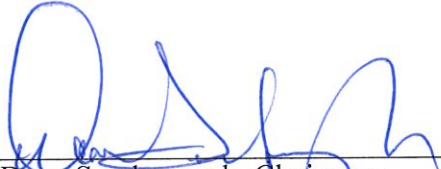
Next month's Council meeting will be sponsored by Hart County and the City of Hartwell.

DOOR PRIZES

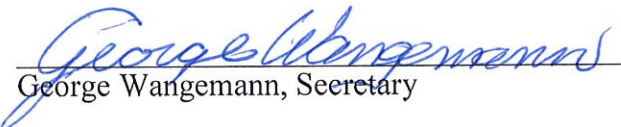
Town of Homer and Banks County provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2017-2018**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/27/17	8/31/17	9/28/17	10/26/17	11/16/17	12/1/17	1/25/18	2/22/18	3/29/18	4/26/18	5/31/18	6/28/18
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P	P	A	F (R)	F (R)	P	A	P (R)				
	Jerry Payne	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P				
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P				
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	P				
	Mike Eason							(N)P	A				
FORSYTH	David Headley	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P				
	Pete Amos	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P				
	Vacant												
FRANKLIN	Robert Long	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P				
	Thomas Bridges	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
	Ralph Owens	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P				
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P				
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A				
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P	P				
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Richard Higgins	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)				
HALL	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P				
	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
HART	Tray Hicks	P	A	A	P (R)	A	P	A	P				
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Chris Dockery	P	P	P (R)	P	A	P	A	A				
LUMPKIN	Sam Norton*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A				
	J.B. Jones	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P				

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RABUN	Greg James	P	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)				
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	P	A	A	P	P	A				
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
STEPHENS	David Austin	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P				
	Connie Tabor	P	P	P	A	P (R)	A	P	P				
	Cliff Bradshaw	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P (R)				
	Andrea Gibby	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A				
TOWNS	David Stovall	A	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)				
	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)				
	Jim Conley	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P (R)	P (R)				
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)				
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Bill Black	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P				
	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
GOV APPT.	Angela Whidby	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A				
	Will Wade	A	A	P	P	P	A	A	A				
	Vacant												
	Vacant												

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary