

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Hartwell City Hall
Hartwell, GA
February 28, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the new Hartwell City Hall in Hartwell, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Hartwell.

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 City of Hartwell for hosting the meeting.

Chairman Stovall recognized City of Hartwell's Mayor, Jennifer Scott. Ms. Scott stated that the City was excited to be able to host this meeting. She welcomed everyone to Hartwell and invited them to tour the New City Hall. Mr. Tray Hicks, Hartwell City Councilman and GMRC Council Member introduced Dan Reyen and Bill Myers, Hart County Commissioners; David Aldrich, Hartwell City Manager; and Bill Ethridge, David Little, Tony Haynie, and Mike McNabb, Hartwell City Councilmen.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice Chairman Sam Norton recognized other special guests, Tate O'Rourke and Barton Lowrey, Aides for Sen. Isakson's Office; Cheryl Smith, GDEcD; Kathy Papa, DCA; and Frank Riley, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave the devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance. The meal was sponsored by J. M. Wilkerson Construction and Pieper, O'Brien, Herr Architects. Chairman Stovall thanked these companies for sponsoring this meeting.

PROGRAMS

Updates on Environmental Projects

Adam Hazell, GMRC Planning Director, spoke about the possibility of the GMRC partnering with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to assist in the administration of transit services in the region. DHS is bringing what's called "Coordinated Transit" to the region, whereby the local service providers would be eligible to provide crossover services among any of three

different government-sponsored transit programs. This allows the providers to more efficiently manage trips and vehicles, and would simplify administration at the State level. As proposed, the GMRC would be involved in the monthly collection and processing of invoices from the 13 private providers, assisting DHS with the collection and review of ridership statistics and with the annual RFP process soliciting bids from transit providers. The GMRC would be reimbursed for this work either on a per trip or flat fee basis, yet to be determined. To learn more about this process, the GMRC is already assisting the DHS staff with the solicitation from the bids as the process is introduced to the region. Once there is a formal contract proposed for the GMRC, and as staff determined this is a plausible task, the contract will be brought before the Council for consideration and could be approved for FY14.

New City Hall and Projects in Hartwell

Hartwell City Manager, David Aldrich discussed how, in 2009, the City of Hartwell did a feasibility study to see whether to renovate the 60 year old City Hall or build a new one. When the decision was made to build a new city hall, the City Council wanted everything to be locally done as much as possible. They prepared a Financial Plan and sent RFPs to all the banks in the area. One of the local banks had the best rates. They also prepared a stimulus package hoping to involve local participation from Hartwell and surrounding counties instead of purchasing supplies and hiring labor from other areas. They used the design-build concept for the 19,500 sq.ft. new city hall. The City Council is proud to say that the new facility cost under \$4 million, which came in under budget and was able to move in only one week late of the projected completion date. Mr. Aldrich introduced Darren Sayer with J.M. Wilkerson Construction and Anthony Turpin of Pieper, O'Brien, and Herr Architects. They presented a power point on how their two companies were instrumental in the design and construction of the new building. The Hartwell City Council and the citizens of Hartwell are very proud of their New City Hall.

DHS Transportation Services for GMRC

Adam Hazell provided an update on the GMRC's current environmental projects. Most focus on watershed management and water quality, either via State programs or local assistance. Presently, the GMRC is working with two different stakeholder groups to help with implementation of the State's River Basin Management Plans for the Coosa North Georgia basin and the Upper Savannah basin. The GMRC is also assisting both the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D and the GA Environmental Protection Division (EPD) with developing and implementing watershed management plans. For these, the GMRC is collecting and testing water samples, working with advisory committees to determine sources of pollution, and then administering programs that make funds available to landowners to improve the runoff conditions on their property. These efforts help clean local waterways which help local ecology, flood control and make it cheaper to treat public water supplies. Anyone wishing more details about any of these projects can contact Adam.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the January 31, 2013 meeting. Bill Chafin made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Sam Norton. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Lewis thanked John Phillips and the Workforce Development staff for the great job they did on the WD Board Retreat. He thanked everyone who attended and stated that he had heard numerous positive comments regarding this meeting. Mr. Lewis apologized for being unable to attend due to a conflicting meeting in Atlanta with Tricia Pridemore and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development.

Hall County hosted the City/County Managers Meeting at the new location of the Hall County Government Offices. The City/County Managers meet quarterly to share ideas and discuss things that are going on in the area with others. Mr. Lewis thanked Hall County Manager Randy Knighton and Commission Chairman Dick Mecum for hosting this group and providing lunch.

Heather Feldman announced that a Grants Workshop would be held at the GMRC Office on March 5th from 10:00 until 12:00 to inform the cities and counties of grants and loans that are available. USDA has announced they will have available \$47 million in loans that can be used for infrastructure, fire stations, community facilities, etc. A DCA representative will be on hand to discuss funds that are available through their agency. The RC is trying to assist these agencies in getting the word out about this money. Please RSVP by Monday.

Financial Report

Mr. Lewis recognized Director of Finance, Becky Sievers for her 10 years of service to the RC. Ms. Sievers gave the GMRC Financial Report. The Cash Position as of January 31, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$491,624, receivables of \$150,508 and payables of \$338,774, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$303,358. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013 indicated Revenue Income of \$804,779, Expenditures of \$765,675, with 55 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Tray Hicks made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Tim Merritt

Mr. Lewis reported that Forsyth Assistant County Manager and former GMRC Council Member Tim Merritt had previously been in the hospital due to surgery for aneurisms on his brain. He had to return to the hospital a second time due to complications. He is at home now

recuperating. Mr. Merritt wanted to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Mr. Lewis stated that he was proud to announce the Mr. Merritt will be returning to work on March 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

Blitz Report

Danny Lewis reported the Blitz is complete. The GMRC staff has visited all 51 communities and met with city and county officials and personnel explaining the services that the GMRC can do for our region. From these visits, we received ideas of work that the cities and counties need assistance with. Mr. Lewis thanked everyone for taking time to meet with the staff to discuss these issues.

Sponsorships Needed

Chairman Stovall stated that before tonight's meeting, there were four months open for sponsorship of the 2013 Council Meetings. Tonight people have been volunteering to host these meetings. We only have one slot for the July 25th meeting left open and this would complete our year. Chairman Stovall asked if anyone would like to host this meeting to please let us know. He also thanked the cities and counties that have always come through by sponsoring these meetings.

DOOR PRIZES

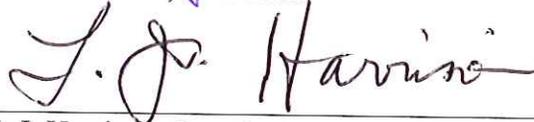
Mr. Trey Hicks awarded door prizes to the lucky winners that their numbers were drawn. Mr. Bill Myers gave out gift cards to everyone from Bojangles. These cards have a guaranteed value of \$1.00 and could have a possible amount up to \$100. Chairman Stovall thanked City of Hartwell for acquiring these prizes.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2012-2013**

Page 1

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/26/12	8/30/12	9/27/12	10/25/12	11/15/12	12/7/12	1/31/13	2/28/13	3/28/13	4/25/13	5/30/13	6/27/13
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	(N)A	A	P	A	P	P	A	P				
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P				
	Leslie George	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P				
	Mike Berg	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	A				
DAWSON	James Grogan		(N)P	A	A	P	P	P	P				
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
	Brian Tam							(N)P	P				
FORSYTH	Ralph Perry	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A				
	Vacant												
	David Strickland							(N)P	P				
FRANKLIN	Ralph Owens	P(R)	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P				
	Sonny James		(N)P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A				
HALL	Vacant												
	Dick Mccum							(N)P	A				
	George Wangemann	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A				
	Deborah Mack	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	A				
HART	Bill Myers	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P				
	Tray Hicks	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P				
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery							(N)P	A				
	Sam Norton**	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P				
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	A				

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2012-2013**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/26/12	8/30/12	9/27/12	10/25/12	11/15/12	12/7/12	1/31/13	2/28/13	3/28/13	4/25/13	5/30/13	6/27/13
RABUN	Stan Darnell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Debbie Chisholm	P (R)	P (R)	P	P	P	P	A	P				
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Ron Seib	P	P (R)	P	A	P	P	A	P				
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)				
	Andrea Gibby	P (R)	A	P	P	A	A	A	P				
	David Stovall*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A				
	Jim Conley	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A				
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	A				
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	(R) P	A	A	P	P	P	P (R)				
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
	Bill Black	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
	Paul Kreager	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A				
	Will Wade	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P				
SPEAKER APPT.	Vacant												
	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P				

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary