

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Oakwood City Hall
Oakwood, GA
March 28, 2013

MINUTES

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

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 Oakwood for hosting the meeting.

Chairman Stovall recognized Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood for local introductions. Mayor Scroggs thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to Oakwood. He introduced Stan Brown, City Manager; Sam Evans, City Councilman; Tangee Puckett, City Clerk, and Tabitha Hale. He expressed a special thanks to Tangee and Tabitha for making all the arrangements and setting up this meeting.

Stan Brown recognized and thanked Rochester and Associates, Inc. and Sophicity for sponsoring the meal for this meeting. Randy Weaver with Sophicity explained that their IT-in-a-Box program provided complete IT service for municipalities or they will assist the city's current IT personnel with all aspects of computer services, such as, creating new websites, off site back-ups, Micro Soft and Share Point programs. Sophicity provides IT services for City of Oakwood. Rochester and Associates, Inc. is a local engineering firm that has also worked with the City on several projects. Mr. Brown thanked both of these businesses for their services to the City and for assisting with tonight's meal.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice Chairman Sam Norton recognized special guests, Kathy Papa, DCA; Tim Evans, Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce; Tim Martin, Stephens County Development Authority; Pete Amos, representing Brian Tam; and Andy Pavliscak, representing Ron Seib.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Stovall thanked the sponsors for the wonderful meal.

PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced Brian Williamson, Department of Community Affairs Deputy Commissioner of Community Development and Finance. Mr. Williams commended the RC staff for the work they have done with DCA. DCA has previously gone through reorganization and Mr. Williams explained the different departments, their responsibilities, and the relationship of the RC with DCA. Commissioner Mike Beatty has an "open door" policy and encourages the RCs and individuals to talk to him about different issues. With the help of DCA, Georgia Mountains RC has gotten a fair share of CDBG, IT&D, and OneGeorgia grants for our region. A total of 29 CDBG projects have been funded totaling \$9 Million and creating 594 jobs in our area. Mr. Williams answered questions from the audience.

Mr. Tim Evans with Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce commented on two economic development projects located in Hall County. With the team effort of the RC, DCA, and GDEcD, Hall County was able to secure the Kings Hawaiian Company in Oakwood. This \$50 million investment was made possible through an EDGE Grant prepared by the RC. Also, IMS Gear, Inc. located their North American Headquarters here in the City of Gainesville. They doubled their size in products and employment. Again, thanks to the RC, DCA, and GDEcD for their help with this project.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the February 28, 2012 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Lewis reported that the Economic Development Staff attended the DDAA Conference in Washington, DC. During the Conference, staff were informed about federal spending cuts and the anticipated \$3.3 million ARC funding cut. This could possibly affect the number of grants received.

The RC offices has seen an increase in inquiries and questions on DRIs which means that new construction is beginning to pick up.

RC Staff met with numerous counties who have shown an interest in an updated "flyover" mapping. This would be for a FY15 Flyover. The more counties that participate, the lower the price we will receive. There may be a possibility that 25 counties could participate. The county does not have to be located in the Georgia Mountains region to participate. Any counties that are interested were encouraged to contact Faith Jones for more information.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of February 28, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$521,469, receivables of \$123,234 and payables of \$372,581, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$272,122. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013 indicated Revenue Income of \$904,748, Expenditures of \$836,652, with 60 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. L.J. Harrison made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Will Wade. Motion carried.

Local Food Survey

Patrick Larson referenced the North Georgia Community Food Survey 2013 that were distributed. In 2011, Northwest Georgia RC received \$25,000 in coupons to produce a local food assessment. Along with Northwest Georgia RC, the Northeast Georgia RC and Three Rivers RC are working with the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) out of Asheville, NC to get community opinions on local food. The RCs are trying to get this survey out into the regions in order to get local feedback. The deadline for submittal is May 1st. The surveys may be filled out online or can be mailed in. The survey was previously emailed to all Council Members. Mr. Larson encouraged everyone to pass this survey along to anyone in their communities that have an interest in local food. The RC wants to make sure that our voice is heard.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report

Rex Farmer, Nominating Committee Chairman reported that the Committee met previously and discuss the election of new officers for the GMRC Council. The term for these positions will be two years. The Committee nominates the following: Sam Norton, Chairman; Dean Scarborough, Vice Chairman; and George Wangemann, Secretary. L.J. Harrison has been asked to continue to serve as Chaplain.

Chairman Stovall thanked the Committee and stated that the election will be held at the May Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

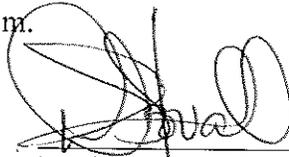
No New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall announced that he is proud to report that we have booked Council meeting sponsorship for the remainder of 2013 and four months into 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



David Stoyall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary