

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Railroad Depot/Welcome Center
Lavonia, GA
March 31, 2016

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Railroad Depot and Welcome Center in Lavonia, Georgia. The meeting was co-hosted by City of Lavonia and Franklin County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Mayor Ralph Owens welcomed everyone to City of Lavonia and to the Railroad Depot. The Depot has been open for four years and houses the Welcome Center and Downtown Development Authority. Mr. Owens thanked GMRC for their help on numerous projects and especially on securing funding for the renovations to The Depot. He also thanked Franklin County for co-sponsoring the meeting. He recognized Lavonia Council Members Harold Harbin, Eddie Floyd, Courtney Umberhant, and David Howell; Marie Morse and Margaret Ayers, Downtown Development Authority; and Jim Gothard, Planning and Zoning.

Franklin County Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges also welcomed everyone to Franklin County and expressed his appreciation to the RC for all the work done for the County. He recognized Franklin County Manager Beth Thomas; Commissioners Eddie Wester and David Strickland and wife Chris; Franklin County GMRC Council Member Gerald Voyles and wife Janice; Attorney Bubba Samuels; and Chairman's wife, Kathy Bridges.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Andrew Seavers, Aide with Sen. Perdue's Office; Nancy Bobbitt, Aide with Sen. Isakson's Office; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Department of Economic Development; and Frank Riley, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison announced he had served on this Council since 1978 and would be resigning in June. Mr. Harrison gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Department of Administrative Services

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced our speaker Mr. Zach Johnson. Mr. Johnson is the Government Affairs and Media Communications Specialist for the Georgia Department of Administrative Services. He presented a program regarding the services that are available to the cities and counties through DOAS. This department deals with surplus properties that is

available to the cities/counties, the fleet vehicle fuel purchase program, the P Card program, State credit cards, purchasing of items on the State Purchasing Plan, and numerous other programs that are available.

Georgia Association of Regional Commissions

Mr. Lewis also introduced Jim Dove, President of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC). Mr. Dove has been the Executive Director for the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission in Athens, Georgia for 29 years, and also serves as the President for DDAA for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Mr. Dove explained the formation of the Regional Commissions in Georgia and their duties to the cities and counties they each serve. The Executive Directors of the Regional Commissions meet monthly, and quarterly with the RC's Policy Official. The GARC hosts two conferences; the Annual Conference is held at St. Simons Island and the Economic Development Conference held at Lake Lanier Islands. GARC attends and works with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), Department of Human Resources (DHR), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Georgia Council of City County Managers Association (GCCMA). They also work very closely with the US and State Legislators.

Announcement of Congressional Regional Meeting

Andrew Seaver, Regional Representative with Senator Perdue's office invited everyone to attend a regional meeting in Stephens County on April 5th from 10:00 – 1:00. They will be holding these meetings throughout the region to hear public comments.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the February 25, 2016 meeting. Ken Schubring made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis announced his date of retirement to be August 9th. He turns 65 in July and has promised his family that he would retire and move to Greenville, SC to spend more time with his family. He stated that the Council and staff were the best he had ever worked with.

Some of the GMRC staff will be traveling this weekend to Washington, DC for the DDAA/ Appalachian Regional Commission Conference.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for February. The Cash Position as of February 29, 2016 showed a bank balance of \$1,322,658, receivables of \$166,284 and payables of \$588,780, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$900,162. The Revenue

Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2015 – February 29, 2016 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$3,379,364, Expenditures of \$3,434,898, with 66 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Ken Schubring made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Introduction of New Council Member

Chairman Scarborough recognized Robert Long, Vice-President of Economic Development for the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Long came on the Council as the Private Sector Representative for Forsyth County in February but was not introduced at the meeting. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Long to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Update to Regional Work Program

Planning Director Adam Hazell informed the Council that the Annual Update to the GMRC Regional Work Program had previously been emailed to them for their review. This is the element of the Regional Work Program that is routinely submitted to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) related to the projects that the RC takes on outside of the normal scope of activities directed by DCA. Mr. Hazell asked the Council to consider approval of the transmittal of this document to DCA for their review. Charlie Auvermann made a motion to approve the Transmittal Resolution and was seconded by J.B. Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

DOOR PRIZES

Franklin County and City of Lavonia provided a number of door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Scarborough stated there is a personnel matter the Council needed to discuss. David Stovall made a motion for the Council to enter into Closed Executive Session allowed by OCGA 50-14-4 for the purpose of discussing this issue. Charlie Auvermann seconded and motion carried.

No action was taken during Closed Session.

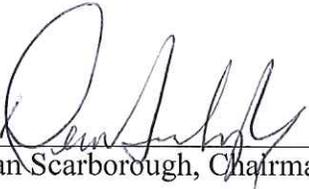
Bill Chafin made the motion to adjourn Closed Executive Session and to reconvene the Council Meeting. Motion was seconded by James Grogan and motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE COUNCIL MEETING

Ricky Carter made a motion to increase Heather Feldman's salary by \$1,000 per month during her position of Interim Deputy Executive Director. Motion was seconded by L.J. Harrison and motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2015-2016**

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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	4/21/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	P	P	P	P	D			
	Jerry Payne	P	P (R)	P	A	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	D			
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)			
	Mike Berg	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	P	A			
DAWSON	James Grogan**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Charlie Auvermann	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P			
	Brian Tam	A	A	P	P (R)*	A	P (R)	P (R)*	P	P			
	Welch, Chuck			P (N)	P	A	P	P	A	A			
FRANKLIN	Robert Long								P	P			
	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P (R)	P			
	Ralph Owens	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P			
	Gerald Voyles	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P			
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A			
	Audrey Turner	A	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P			
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)			
HALL	George Wangemann***	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	A			
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A			
	Ricky Carter	P	P	A	P	A	A	P	P	P			
	Tray Hicks	A	P	A	A	P	P	P (R)	P	A			
LUMPKIN	Bill Chafin	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P			
	Chris Dockery	A	P	A	P	A	P	P (R)	P	P			
	Sam Norton	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	A	P			
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2015-2016**

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary

RESOLUTION

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION'S COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires the Georgia Mountains RC to develop and maintain a Regional Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has promulgated certain rules containing the Minimum Standards and Requirements for Regional Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Mountains RC staff has prepared the 2016 Annual Update to the Regional Work Program portion of the Regional Plan in accordance with the Minimum Standards and Requirements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Georgia Mountains RC Council does hereby authorize transmittal of the GMRC Regional Work Program Update to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

ADOPTED, this 29th day of March, 2016.



Dean Scarborough
GMRC Council Chairman

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oath, Dean Scarborough, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

- 1) I was the presiding officer of a Council Meeting of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission held on the 31st day of March, 2016.
- 2) That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

- 3) The subject matter of the closed meeting held on the 31st day of March, 2016, which was closed for the purpose(s) of:
 Personnel Real Estate Litigation as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.
- 4) This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-17-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

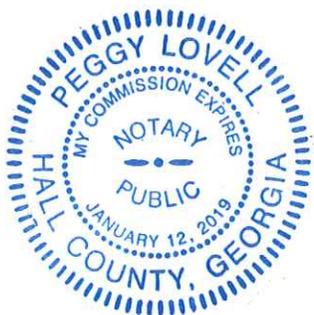
This 31st day of March, 2016.



Chair, GMRC Council

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 31st day of March, 2016





Notary Public