

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Funopolis Family Fun Center
Banks County
April 21, 2016

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Funopolis Family Fun Center in Banks County. The meeting was co-hosted by City of Homer and Banks County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Danny Maxwell, Banks County Commissioner and GMRC Council Member, welcomed everyone to Banks County and City of Homer. He recognized Commission Chairman Jimmy Hooper and his wife, Kathleen; Commissioners David Duckett, and Sammy Reece; and Danny's wife, Charlotte; County Clerk Jenni Gailey and her husband David; Brad Day, Banks County Economic Developer; and Tax Commissioner Becky Carlan and husband Tim.

Mayor Doug Cheek, City of Homer also welcomed everyone to Banks County and the City of Homer. He recognized Council Members Sandra Garrison and Jerry Payne, his wife Donna; Carol Ayers, City Clerk; and Mayor Cheek's wife, Petina.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Banks County and City of Homer for co-hosting this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Representative Dan Gasaway; Andrew Seavers, Aide with Sen. Perdue's Office; Christopher Dunn, Department of Community Affairs; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; and Danette Smith, Department of Labor.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison announced at the last meeting he would be retiring from the Council after the June meeting. Mr. Harrison has served on the Council since 1975. The Council has only had three Chaplains – Dr. Kelly Barnes, J.R. Rosser, and Mr. Harrison followed Mr. Rosser. Mr. Harrison gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Mr. Harrison for his dedication as Chaplain and Council Member.

PROGRAM

2016-20 Appalachian Regional Commission Strategic Plan

Ms. Heather Feldman introduced our speaker Annaka Woodruff. Ms. Woodruff is the ARC State Program Director with the Department of Community Affairs. She became the Georgia State Program Director in January 2015. Ms. Woodruff spoke to the Council regarding the ARC program which covers portions of 13 eastern states. In Georgia, this area covers 37 counties with a total population of 4 million. ARC has invested \$3.4 M in funds for local projects. Each eligible project has a \$300,000 maximum investment and requires a local match. The GMRC plays the role of getting these funds into our communities. A critical need for infrastructure is vital in our area. Ms. Woodruff spoke on the new 2015-16 Strategic Plan that they have compiled. The five main components of the Plan address Economic Opportunities, Ready Workforce Development, Critical Infrastructure, Natural/Cultural Assets, and Building the Skills of Current and Future Leaders. Ms. Woodruff also discussed some of the local projects in our area that have been made possible by ARC funding.

ARC will be conducting four workshops in May and June. Notices will be sent out by email. Ms. Woodruff encouraged everyone to attend.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough stated there was one correction to the March 31, 2016 meeting minutes. On the vote regarding the approval of the salary increase for the Interim Deputy Executive Director, it should state that the motion carried with one abstention. David Austin made a motion to accept the minutes with this one correction and the attendance report as presented. Motion was seconded by Sonny James and motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis could not attend due to a death in his family. Heather Feldman, Interim Deputy Executive Director informed the Council that several RC staff attended the ARC/EDA Conference in Washington in April.

Workforce Development has been approved by the US Department of Labor for their development of a four year mechatronics apprenticeship program with IMS Gear located in Gainesville. This program would include a Metals Boot Camp, an Electrical Boot Camp, and an Associate's Degree in Industrial System Technology. Our WD will be the first to implement this program.

Ms. Feldman thanked Bill Chafin, Finance Committee, and the Finance Department staff for all their hard work on the 2016 GMRC Budget.

Also the Economic Development staff has been very busy completing and submitting the ARC and CDBG applications to DCA.

Several upcoming events are the Annual Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Conference held in Savannah; the Summer City/County Managers meeting to be held June 1st at

Helen City Hall; and the GMRC Legislative Appreciation Dinner to be held on May 26th at 6:00 PM at the Dawson County Middle School.

Ms. Feldman congratulated the following for recently receiving awards. Mr. Rex Farmer received the Friend of Agriculture Award at the Annual Agriculture/Business Breakfast in Hall County; Jerry Boling received the Lee Arrendale Excellence of Vocation Award from the Banks County Chamber of Commerce; and Union County received the Four for the Future Award from Georgia Trend and the Carl Vinson Institute for their community rebranding.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for March. The Cash Position as of March 31, 2016 showed a bank balance of \$1,322,658, receivables of \$205,800 and payables of \$268,518, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$1,259,940. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$3,892,083, Expenditures of \$4,020,221, with 75 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

No old Business

NEW BUSINESS

DOT Authorizing Resolution

Planning Director Adam Hazell stated this Resolution is regarding our regular DOT contracts. The Resolution states the Executive Director is authorized to sign and execute the contracts and the GMRC is in compliance with all Federal regulations pertaining to the DOT contract. Tray Hicks made a motion for the Council to authorize the execution of this Resolution. Doug Wayne seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Review Process for 2016 GMRC Budget

Bill Chafin, Finance Committee Chairman stated the Finance and Executive Committees have reviewed and approved the 2016 draft GMRC Budget. It was recommended to the Council for their review. The draft Budget will be emailed to the Council and considered for approval at the May Council meeting.

DOOR PRIZES

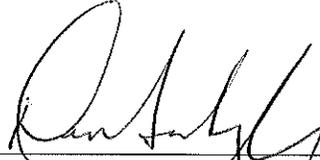
Banks County and City of Homer provided a number of door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

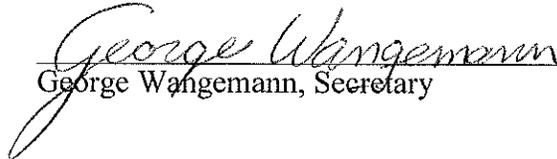
Chairman Scarborough announced the May meeting will be our Legislative Appreciation Dinner and encouraged all the Council members to invite their legislators to attend. The meeting will be held at the Dawson County Middle School on May 26th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlie Auvermann made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 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	4/21/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
RABUN	Greg James	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)		
	Debbie Chisholm	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	A		
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
	Dean Scarborough*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
STEPHENS	David Austin	A	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P		
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P		
	Bill Kendall	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A		
	Andrea Gibby												
TOWNS	David Stovall	P	P	A	P (R)*	P	P	P	A	P	A		
	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P		
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A		
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P		
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)*	A	P	P (R)*	A	P	P (R)*	P	P (R)*	P		
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P		
	Bill Black	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A		
	Rex Farmer	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
GOV APPT.		V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
	Will Wade	P	A	P	E	A	A	P	P	P	A		
		V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		
	Peter Hill	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	P	A	A		

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