

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Lavonia Railroad Depot
Lavonia, Georgia
April 26, 2018

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 26th, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at the Railroad Depot in Lavonia, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Lavonia.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice-Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Mayor Ralph Owens, City of Lavonia welcomed everyone to the City and to the Railroad Depot. City Manager Charles Cawthorn thanked the GMRC for all the assistance they have given to Lavonia on different projects. He recognized City Council Members Harold Harbin, David Howell, and Courtney Umberhant; Margaret Ayers, Historic Preservation Chair; Jim Gothard, Planning and Zoning Officer; and Lynn Allen, former Industrial Building Authority Director.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Franklin County for hosting this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Secretary George Wangemann recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Andrew Seaver, Sen. Perdue's Office; and Andrew Turnage, Secretary of State's Office and also former GMRC Board Member.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Faith Bryan, GMRC Director of Information Services, introduced Ms. Susan Miller who serves as the State Geographic Information Officer for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Ms. Miller spoke to the Council about ways the State of Georgia uses GIS, the new Georgia GIS office, and ways that individuals use GIS. She gave additional information on the GIS software program, aerial photography, and LiDAR programs.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice-Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the March 29, 2018 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORT

Chairman's Report

Vice-Chairman Norton announced that Jason Evans has been appointed by the City of Cumming for serve on the GMRC Council. Mr. Evans could not attend tonight's meeting but will be at the May meeting.

The May 31st Council meeting will be the Legislative Appreciation Meeting, and everyone was encouraged to invite their representatives and senators to attend.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman reported that the GMRC is fully staffed. The RC recently hired Amarylin Neill, who will be serving as Receptionist and Intake Assistant for WorkSource. Amarylin previously worked with GDOL – Habersham Career Center for 16 years. She is familiar with WIOA and WorkSource and looks forward to a smooth transition in her new role.

All of the required information has been submitted to the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) for GMRC's recertification as an Organization of Ethics. Ms. Feldman thanked the Council for supporting this effort. If selected, GMA will honor the GMRC at the Annual Convention in Savannah in June.

Ms. Feldman thanked the GMRC Finance Committee and the entire Finance Department for all of their hard work in preparation of the FY 2019 Budget.

The Strategic Plan is being finalized and hopefully will be available on July 1st along with the new County Fact Sheets. The Fact Sheets are being redone with the last five years information and also demographic information. The RC will be sending out a survey to see what type information you want see on these sheets.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has recently announced the availability of \$587 million in grant funds to aid communities impacted by natural disasters in 2017. Daniel Martin and the Economic Development staff are available to assist in applying for this funding.

Ms. Feldman also announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1.5 billion in discretionary grant funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. These grants replace the pre-existing Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The FY 2018 BUILD Transportation grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. This funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Financial Report

Andrea Newsom, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for the third quarter which was previously emailed to the Council. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$3,864,108, Expenditures of \$3,906,156, with 62 percent of the budget expended for the fiscal year. Ms. Newsom also

reported that the Finance Department has been working on getting things entered into the accounting system for the 4th quarter to be ready to close out the year. The Auditors are expected in August. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the Financial Report and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development Department Update

Daniel Martin, Director of Economic Development and Patrick Larson, Senior Project Manager, reported that the GMRC Economic Development Department has had a very busy year thus far. They have written and submitted 15 grants totaling over \$4 million, with private investments of \$7.5 million. These grants will supply 60-100 new jobs in our region. The RC has hired Ms. Gina Kessler as the new Grant Administrator. She had been busy learning the administration side of all the grants and meeting with the cities and counties that have active grants. Mr. Martin and Mr. Larson highlighted several projects that the Economic Development Department is currently working with in our region. They thanked the cities and counties for their help and input for these grants.

OLD BUSINESS

Purchase of Two New Fleet Vehicles

At last month's Council Meeting, it was voted to purchase two mid-size cars to add to the GMRC fleet. The Council approved to send the RFQ to different dealerships for two mid-size cars. The RFQ was sent out by email to 15 different providers and an ad also ran in the newspaper on April 8th. Four bids were received and opened on April 23rd as advertised. The low bid was from Jacky Jones in Cleveland, Georgia for two Ford Taurus at the price of \$20,890 each. Delivery time would be approximately six to ten weeks. A motion was made by David Austin to accept the low bid from Jacky Jones Ford in Cleveland for the two Ford Taurus and to allow the RC to dispose of the Jeep Liberty that is in the fleet by taking bids from governments in our region. Bill Black seconded and motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Process of the FY19 GMRC Budget

The FY19 GMRC Budget has been reviewed by the Finance and Executive Committees and has recommended that it be sent to the Council for review. The budgeted revenues are \$6,991,880; \$757,596 of this is dues. The Budget will be emailed to the Council next week to be looked over before the next meeting. Major purchases that are included in this Budget are a new air conditioning unit for one hallway of the Ridge Road office, a new computer server, and new computer software. The Council will vote on the Budget at the May meeting.

RLF Loan Consideration

The RLF Committee has received a loan request from a business that has a loan currently with GMRC. The original loan was for \$20,000 in working capital for a restaurant in Hartwell. The current balance on the loan is \$11,901.20. The owner is requesting an additional \$28,000.00 to finish the build out and add a patio to the restaurant. The owner's equity injection into the business is \$62,000.00. The RC holds first position on the lien for the property which is valued at just over \$64,000.00, equipment, and vehicles as collateral. The RLF Committee met previously

and recommended sending this to the Council for consideration. Tray Hicks made a motion to approve the loan and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of RLF Plan Update

Ms. Andrea Newsom reported that the RLF Plan was last certified in 2016 and it is time for it to be recertified. The RC will be reviewing the Plan and making any changes that need to be made at this time. We will bring this before the Council at the May meeting for recertification.

DOOR PRIZES

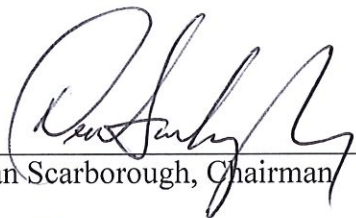
City of Lavonia provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

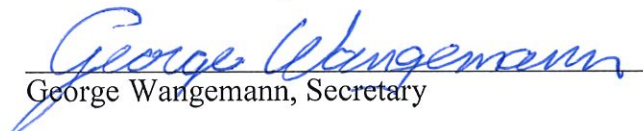
Next month's Council meeting will be our Legislative Appreciation Meeting to be held at the Dawson County Junior High School in Dawsonville.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 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	P (R)	P (R)	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)		
	Jerry Payne	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	P		
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)		
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	A	A		
	Mike Eason							(N)P	A	A	P		
FORSYTH	David Headley	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A		
	Pete Amos	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P		
	Vacant												
FRANKLIN	Robert Long	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P		
	Thomas Bridges	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A		
	Ralph Owens	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P		
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P	A		
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	P	P		
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P		
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
HALL	Richard Higgins	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	A	P		
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P		
HART	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		
	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		
	Tray Hicks	P	A	A	P (R)	A	P	A	P	P	P		
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	P	P (R)	P	A	P	A	A	P	A		
	Sam Norton*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P		
	J.B. Jones	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary