

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Railroad Depot/Welcome Center
Lavonia, Georgia
April 27, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Railroad Depot/Welcome Center in Lavonia, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Lavonia.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. City of Lavonia's Mayor Ralph Owens welcomed everyone to City of Lavonia, the Railroad Depot, and Franklin County. He recognized his wife, Judy; City Council Members Harold Harbin, David Howell, and Courtney Umbehant; City Manager Charles Cawthon; and Margaret Ayers, and Jim and Priscilla Gothard.

Chairman Scarborough thanked City of Lavonia for hosting tonight's meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Bill Kokaly and Joel Katz, Cong. Collins' Office; and Bruce Cutler, Small Business Development Corporation.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Council Member Jerry Payne gave the invocation and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROGRAM

Mr. Paul Tanner with Georgia Department of Transportation and Mr. Eric McRae with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government presented a program on the Map-21 Program. The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions signed an agreement with the Department of Transportation and UGA's Information and Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) to conduct work in our perspective regions on the GIS-based road centerline attribution mandated by the federally-enacted surface transportation act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) project. GMRC staff will be performing verification processes on five key data elements pertaining to roads across the region. Those are: ownership, operation, number of lanes, surface type, and median. The staff will also be providing information on traffic control devices where local roads meet highways and all road names. They will be working closely with county and city road superintendents and GIS staff.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the March 30, 2017 meeting. Bill Chafin made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough reminded the Council that the May Council Meeting would be the Legislative Appreciation Dinner. It will be held at that Dawson County Junior High School. He encouraged members to contact their legislators and personally invite them. The Legislative Committee previously had a conference call to evaluate future events. The legislators are extremely busy when they are finished with session and the Committee was trying to come up with new ideas of how to show our appreciation but not requiring them to attend another meeting

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman announced that Andrea Newsom was recently named the new GMRC Finance Director. Ms. Newsom had been working in this position as Interim since Becky Sievers retired.

Ms. Feldman reported that the Georgia Assembly successfully passed two bills relating to local governments and/or regional commissions: HB73 -Downtown Revitalization Tax Credit (which provides tax credit incentives to promote the revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns by encouraging investment, job creation, and economic growth in long-established business districts) and HB183 - Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council (which recreates the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council under the Department of Community Affairs; to provide that all documents and data of the current Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council that is under the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources shall be transferred to the new council under DCA).

Representative Terry Rogers has been appointed to the Georgia House Rural Development Council, which will work with rural communities to find ways to encourage economic growth. We look forward to working with Representative Rogers in this capacity.

Daniel Martin and Patrick Larson in our Economic Development Department have been extremely busy over the last few months. Together they have submitted eight (8) Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants, two (2) Community Development Block Grant Applications, and one (1) OneGeorgia application. Thanks to their hard work on these applications.

The Planning Department has been extremely busy working on Local Comprehensive Plan updates for the following communities: Towns County/City of Hiawassee/City of Young Harris; Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega; and Union County.

Daniel Martin, John Phillips, and Ms. Feldman attended the ground breaking ceremony of the North Georgia Technical College's new Industrial Technology Center on the Clarkesville

campus. The 45,000 square foot facility will house a CNC Machine Tool Program, Air Conditioning Programs, as well as a general industry lab for existing industry to conduct customized training.

Financial Report

At the February Council Training, the Council voted to go to a quarterly Financial Reports with more detail. Ms. Newsom presented and explained the new format for the report. The budget is right on target with 75% of the budget being expended. David Austin made a motion to accept the Budget as presented and Ken Schubring seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Information Services Department Update

Faith Bryan, Information Services Director, gave an update on two projects that are coming up. Flyers were distributed that explained the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) project. LUCA is an opportunity to update the residential address list for your area prior to the 2020 Census. There will be a workshop at the GMRC office on May 8th from 9:00-11:00 to explain the timeline and requirements for the LUCA program. On July 20, 2017, the Highest Elected Official for each City or County will receive an invitation letter and registration form to participate in the LUCA program. GMRC will be receiving funds through the Department of Community Affairs, to assist you with the LUCA process. There will be no additional cost to your City or County. If you would like for GMRC to process the US Census Bureau's residential address list for your jurisdiction, it is very important that you designate GMRC as your LUCA Liaison or Designated Reviewer on the registration form. Without this designation, GMRC will be unable to assist you. GMRC is here to help you.

Requests for Proposals were sent out to companies for the 2018 Aerial Photography and LiDAR flyover project. Six proposals were received and the review committee is scheduled to meet and go over all RFPs. These photos will be a 6" x 3" resolution. The project will be much larger than the one completed in 2015. Ms. Bryan distributed maps indicating which cities and counties will be participating in the project.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Review Process

Bill Chafin, Finance Committee Chairman informed the Council that the Finance Committee and Executive Committee have reviewed the 2018 GMRC Budget. The Budget will be emailed to all Council Members on Friday for their review before the May Council meeting at which time it will be voted on. The Budget has 2.5% of unallocated funds (\$52,000) set aside for potential raises for employees.

Nominating Committee Report

Rex Farmer, Nominating Committee Chairman reported that the Nominating Committee has met and recommends the following slate of GMRC Council Officers: James Grogan, Chairman; Bill

Chafin, Vice Chairman; and George Wangemann, Secretary. New officers would begin their term on July 1, 2017 for a two-year term. Election of officers will be held at the May Council Meeting.

DOOR PRIZES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

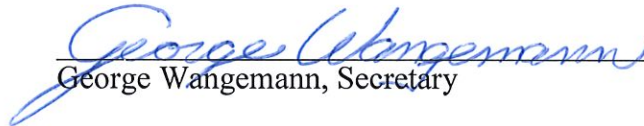
Next month's Council meeting will be the Legislative Appreciation Dinner on May 25th hosted by Dawson County and Dawson County Board of Education at the Junior High School.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2016-2017

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/28/16	8/25/16	9/29/16	10/27/16	11/17/16	12/2/16	1/26/17	2/23/17	3/30/17	4/27/17	5/25/17	6/29/17
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P	P	A	A	P	A (R)		
	Jerry Payne	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P		
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P		
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond							(N) P	P	P	A		
	James Grogan	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		
	Charlie Anvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
FORSYTH	Todd Levent							(N) P	P	A	A		
	Chuck Welch	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
	Robert Long	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P		
FRANKLIN	Thomas Bridges							(N) P	P	P	A		
	Ralph Owens	P	P (R)	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P		
	Gerald Voyles	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P		
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford							(N) P	A	A	P		
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)		
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
HALL	Richard Higgins							(N) P (R)	A	P (R)	A		
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P		
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	A		
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		
	Tray Hicks	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P (R)	A		
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	A	A		
	Sam Norton*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P		
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P		

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary