

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Cumming City Hall
April 30, 2015

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall in Cumming, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Cumming.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Cumming Mayor Ford Gravitt welcomed everyone to City of Cumming. He stated it was always a pleasure and honor to host the Regional Commission meeting and thanked the staff for the work they have done for the City. Mayor Gravitt recognized City Manager Gerald Blackburn; Assistant City Manager Steve Bennett; Council Members Quincy Holton, Lewis Ledbetter, Ralph Perry, John D. Pugh, and Rupert Sexton; and City Attorney Kevin Tallant.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Senator Michael William, District 27; Tate O'Rourke, Aide with Senator Isakson's Office; Cheryl Smith, Department of Economic Development; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; and Danette Smith, Department of Labor.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

In the absence of our Chaplain, Chairman Norton gave the invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner catered by Tam's Backstage followed.

PROGRAM

Planning Director Adam Hazell, GMRC Planning Director introduced Mr. Brian Johnson. Mr. Johnson is the State Director of Planning for the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Mr. Johnson spoke to the Council about DCA and how it works with the RCs in the state to benefit the cities and counties. He mentioned a number of projects that DCA and GMRC are currently working on and recognized a number of cities and counties that have received awards for projects in our region.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the March 26, 2015 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Chris Dockery. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

At the last Council meeting, Chairman Norton reactivated the Nominating Committee for their search of Council Officers for the upcoming year. The Committee will meet during this month in order to provide a slate of Officers to the Council at the next meeting.

The Revolving Loan Fund Committee, chaired by Jim Conley, has done a great job in making loans totaling \$4.8M in our region. Currently there are 16 active loans, totaling \$1.3M with \$428,000 left in the bank to be loaned. With these loans, there have been 447 jobs created and 100 saved jobs. The RC has completed a report to EDA and the program will not have any money sequestered. The Committee is currently looking at two new loan applications. We need to get the word out to the banks in our area that when the bank denies a loan, they need to refer them to the GMRC RLF program.

Workforce Development Board met earlier and Chairman Norton applauded the Board and staff for the work that they do. He shared a testimonial letter from one of the WD participants.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported Ben Hames, Deputy Executive Director for Department of Economic Development-Workforce Division visited our WD Office. John Phillips and WD Board Chair, Andrea Gibby and Mr. Hames toured two of our unique programs. They visited the Northeast Georgia Medical Center where the Project SEARCH Program is implemented and the Gainesville Career Center where Mr. Hames was able to tour one of our Mobile Training Units that are used out in the region. They briefed him on a project at the Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) where four people have obtained their GED.

Two auditors with the Department of Audit and Accounts have been in the GMRC office this week. A final meeting is scheduled for Friday with staff and the auditors. GMRC was one of three RCs that have been audited this year with the main emphasis on planning activities. Mr. Lewis thanked the staff for working so well with the auditors.

Dawson County Commission Chairman Mike Berg was congratulated on receiving the Emory Greene Leadership Award which he received at the ACCG Conference in Savannah. Only 20 people in the state of Georgia have won this award. Mr. Berg is the second to receive this award from our area, with J.B. Jones being the first to receive this award in 1990. Out of twenty recipients, two from our region is outstanding. Congratulations Mr. Berg!!

The City/County Managers met on Wednesday, April 1st in Sky Valley. The Summer Meeting will be hosted by GMA.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for March. The Cash Position as of March 31, 2015 showed a bank balance of \$1,172,500, receivables of \$336,084 and payables of \$797,084, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$711,500. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$3,394,286, Expenditures of \$3,508,673, with 53 percent of the budget being

expended for the fiscal year. Bill Chafin made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Ethics Panel Appointments

At the March Council Meeting, Joel Cordle and Bill Stewart were appointed by the Chairman to the GMRC Ethics Panel. According to the Ethics Policy one appointment comes from the Council. Dean Scarborough nominated Phyllis Ayers, Stephens County Manager/Administrator to fill this position. Jim Conley made a motion to approve the three appointments to the Ethics Panel. Motion was seconded by Tray Hicks and carried unanimously.

FY16 GMRC Budget

The FY16 GMRC Budget was previously emailed to the Council for their review. Bill Chafin, Finance Committee Chairman stated the total Budget is \$5,075,048, which is a decrease of \$1,526,047 due to no carry over funds for WD. Dues increased by \$11,105 due to changes in 2013 Census figures. The RC has 14 full-time employees and WD has 19 full-time and one part-time employee. The Budget also includes a 3% COLA increase for all employees, changes in reclassification of the WD Supervisor and Case Manager positions, and an addition of one WD full time position to be added in January 2016 (1/2 year).

Motion to approve the FY16 Budget was made by Bill Chafin and seconded by Tray Hicks. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Norton recognized and thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work on the GMRC budget.

NEW BUSINESS

FY15 Budget Amendment

Mr. Lewis stated that this Amendment is for the FY15 Budget that was approved last year. The Auditors have advised the RC to bring any contracts to the Council that has been secured since the FY15 Budget was approved in order to amend the current Budget. The RC contracted with DHS for the Transit Program and also acquired the LiDAR Aerial Photography contract since that time. This is an amendment in the total amount of \$2,902,485 for both contracts. Mike Berg made a motion to approve this Budget Amendment and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Work Program Update

Adam Hazell discussed the Regional Work Program Update which was emailed to the Council previously for their review. It is time to update the RC's Work Program and this includes what the RC has accomplished during the last year and the projected accomplishments for the next five years considered under our contract with DCA. The RC continues to work with DCA toward consolidation of the CEDS document but, since the Federal EDA has administered new standards for the CEDS process, DCA would like to receive this year's update during the spring. This Resolution is to submit the Regional Work Program Update to DCA for their review. Lamar Paris made a motion to approve the Resolution and was seconded by Charlie Auvermann. Motion carried unanimously.

CLEO Report

Mike Berg, Chairman of the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO) stated that this group met to discuss the Workforce Investment Act changes that will take effect on July 1, 2015. Resulting from this meeting, two motions were made to approve the reauthorization of Area II management area and also name GMRC as the fiscal agent for Workforce Development. The Board composition will also be changing due to the new rules; changes will take affect in 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Norton reminded everyone that next month's meeting will be held in Dawson County and would be our Legislative Appreciation Dinner. He urged all Council Members to invite their Senator and Representatives to this meeting.

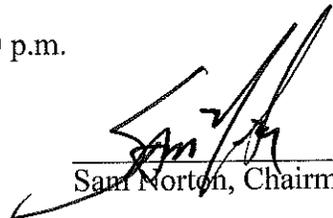
DCA Commissioner had previously announced that DCA will be returning to the original boundaries, which means that Kathy Papa is solely our representative for District II.

DOOR PRIZES

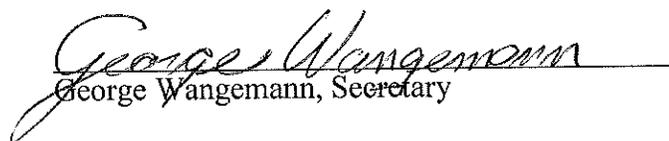
City of Cumming provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners. Chairman Norton thanked City of Cumming for hosting. Mayor Gravitt recognized Linda Heard and Crystal Ledford for coordinating all the logistics for this meeting. Bill Black informed the Council that Ms. Heard previously served on the GMRC Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/31/14	8/28/14	9/25/14	10/30/14	11/20/14	12/5/14*	1/29/15	2/26/15	3/26/15	4/30/15	5/28/15	6/25/15	
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	A	A	E	P	P (R)	P	P	Meeting Cancelled due to Inclement Weather	P (R)	A			
	Jerry Payne	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	A		
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P		P	P	A		
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	P	P	P	A	A	P			A	P		
	James Grogan	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P			P (R)	P		
	Charlie Anvermann	P (R)	P	P	P	P	A	P			P	P		
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P	P	P (R)	P	A	A	P (R)			P (R)	P		
	Ralph Perry	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	A			A	P		
	Randall Toussaint	A	P (R)	P	A	A	P	P			A	P		
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P (R)	P		
	Ralph Owens	P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P			P	P		
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	P	P	A			P	P		
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A	P	P	P	A	P	P			P	P		
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	P (R)	P	P	P		P	A			
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A	P	A	P	P		P	P			
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)		P (R)	P (R)			
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		P	P			
	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		A	P			
HART	Ricky Carter							P (N)		A	A			
	Tray Hicks	P	A	A	P	P	P	A		P	P			
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	A	P		P	P			
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	A	A	P	P	P	P		A	P			
	Sam Norton*	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		P	P			
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	A	P	P		A	A			

December is not an official business meeting - Attendance is not counted

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RABUN	Greg James	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P		P (R)	P (R)		
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	A		P	A		
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P		
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P		
	David Austin							P (N)		P	A		
TOWNS	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	A		
	Bill Kendall	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	A	P (R)		A	P (R)		
	Joan Crothers	P	A	P	A	P	A	P		A	A		
	David Stovall	A	P	P	A	A	A	P		P	P (R)		
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	A	A	P	P		P	P		
	Jim Conley	P	P	A	P	P	P	P		P	P		
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	P	A	A	P	P		P	P		
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P	P (R)	A	P	P (R)		P (R)	P		
	Annie Stifton	P	P	P	P	A	P	A		P	A		
	Bill Black	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		A	P		
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		A	P		
	Vacant												
LT. GOV. APPT.	Will Wade	A	P	P	P	P	A	A		P	A		
	Vacant										V		
SPEAKER APPT.	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	A	P	A		P	P		

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary