

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Gainesville Civic Center
June 25, 2015

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at The Civic Center in Gainesville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Gainesville.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Gainesville Council Member Myrtle Figueras welcomed everyone to the City of Gainesville and stated that she felt that Gainesville was the greatest city in the world. Ms. Figueras recognized Ruth Bruner, Council Member; Kip Padgett, City Manager; Angela Sheppard, Assistant City Manager; Alisa Grayson, Deputy Clerk; and Mark Lane from Hall County.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Danette Smith, Department of Labor; Stami Williams, Aide with Senator David Perdue's Office; and Jane O'Gorman, University of North Georgia.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Norton informed the Council that the Agenda had been amended to include the contract with Department of Human Services. Mike Berg made a motion to approve the amendment and was seconded by Bill Black. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM

Mike Berg introduced our speaker, Mr. Mark Butler, Department of Labor Commissioner. Mr. Butler spoke to the Council regarding the unemployment rates in our region. The GMRC region has the lowest unemployment rates compared to the whole state. He stated that this is probably because we have the best technical colleges in the State of Georgia. We also have quite a few programs that work with the unemployed to help train and find these people jobs. Such programs as Quick Start, SWAP, Economic Development Customized Recruitment, and Georgia Best are available help people when they lose their jobs. He commended the GMRC Workforce Development Office and the two MTUs for their work and assistance to the people in our area.

Mr. Lewis introduced John Phillips, GMRC Workforce Development Director and the supervisors in the Workforce Development office who work with the Mobile Training Units

(MTUs), Adult, Dislocated Workers, Rapid Response, and Youth programs. These are the staff that assists people who have lost their jobs and need guidance, training, and education to get back into the workforce.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the May 28, 2015 meeting. Sonny James made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Gerald Voyles. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Norton recognized the Executive Committee and commended them on the work that they have done and about the leadership that the RC Council has. The different committees work well together, completes work on time, trust each other, but most importantly work regionally. As Chairman, Norton stated, it has been a great pleasure working with the Council and staff during the time that he has served as Council Chairman.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis thanked Chairman Norton for his leadership. New officers for 2015-16 were introduced as Dean Scarborough, Chairman; James Grogan, Vice Chairman; and George Wangemann, Secretary.

Mr. Lewis recognized the members and staff who serve on the Comprehensive Economic Development Study (CEDS) Committee. Charlie Auvermann and Heather Feldman heads up this Committee. This Committee sets our direction for the coming year with economic development projects.

Faith Bryan introduced to the Council our new staff member, Brandon Carlock. Brandon will be working with Faith in the GIS Department on a number of projects. Faith stated that he has "hit the ground running".

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Bryan reported that Forsyth, Habersham, Henry, Cobb, and Fayette Counties have received their LiDAR data and we are pushing to get the ortho data quicker. The RC contracted with 25 cities/counties in six different regions for this \$1.6 Million project. This project will be finished in October. Cities and counties that participated saved up to 50% because they contracted with the RC as a group. This was a great move to go with other cities and counties to keep the cost down. Middle Georgia RC is talking to Faith about them doing this for their area.

Kip Padgett will be leaving the City of Gainesville as City Manager. Mr. Lewis wished him well in his move and thanked him for his support in projects that the RC had with the City. He stated that Mr. Padgett would do well, no matter where he goes.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for May. The Cash Position as of May 31, 2015 showed a bank balance of \$997,977, receivables of \$466,359 and payables of \$454,820, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$1,009,516. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$5,498,885, Expenditures of \$5,348,694, with 92 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. J.B. Jones made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sievers reported that in trying to clear up the books for year end, they need to do a journal entry to clear up an outstanding amount of \$851.00 that has been on the ledger, probably back to when the RLF Program was returned to the RC. This amount was not properly posted somewhere and it is throwing the ledger off every year. It was so long ago that the accounting staff has been unable to trace it back to see how to correct it. We need approval to make a journal entry to write this entry off before we transfer over to the new system. Gerald Voyles made a motion to make this entry to clear up the books. Motion was seconded by Doug Wayne and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

DHS Contract

The Department of Human Services (DHS) transit contract is up for renewal. When we signed the transit contract for 2014, the RC attorney entered in a clause (Item G) that gave us the opportunity to not take on all the liability from this contract. During our Audit it was brought to our attention that no one else has this liability clause in their contract. So when DHS prepared the contract for 2015, they took our liability clause out. The Executive Committee, as well as the Executive Director and the Chairman, feels that the potential liability far outweighs any monetary gain for these services. The RC made about \$20,000 for being what we thought was only a fiscal agent for the transit services. DHS feels that we must be more than a fiscal agent such as inspecting vehicles, etc. We feel that it would be too much liability and would have to hire more staff. It comes as a recommendation from the Executive Committee that the RC does not renew this contract. Our current contract will end on June 30, 2015. There were some concerns as to whether DHS could recover with us terminating this close to the starting date of the new contract, but they have assured us that they are prepared to have this operated through their office in Atlanta. A motion was made by Bill Chafin and seconded by Sonny James. Floor was opened for discussion. With no discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Council Private Sector Representatives

According to the Bylaws, the GMRC Private Sector representatives should be reappointed each year. Chairman Norton stated that the Private Sector Representatives on the Council are some of the most active members. He was very pleased that all representatives have agreed to serve for the upcoming year. These members are Leslie George, Banks; Charlie Auvermann, Dawson; Randall Toussaint, Forsyth; Gerald Voyles, Franklin; Ken Schubring, Habersham; Deborah Mack, Hall; Bill Chafin, Hart; J.B. Jones, Lumpkin; Doug Wayne, Rabun; L.J. Harrison,

Stephens; David Stovall, Towns; Mitch Griggs, Union; and Bill Black, White. This slate of Private Sector Representatives comes as a recommendation from the Executive Committee. Sonny James made a motion to accept this recommendation and was seconded by David Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation to the Chairman

Vice Chairman Scarborough commended Chairman Norton for all his hard work and accomplishments while he served as Council Chairman. He presented him with a Recognition Award and thanked him for his leadership and friendship to the Council.

Evaluation of Executive Director

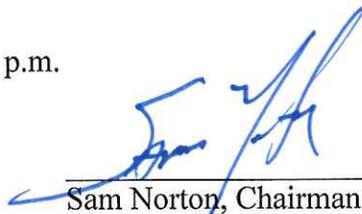
Each year the RC Executive Director must be evaluated. Surveys were distributed previously to the Executive Committee to evaluate the GMRC Executive Director. The 13 members filled out their forms in private and returned them to the Chairman. With this evaluation form, a perfect score is 50. In compiling the scores received, our Executive Director scored 49.16. This speaks as to what type of service the RC is getting. Motion to except this evaluation was made by Mike Berg and seconded by L.J. Harrison. Motion carried unanimously.

DOOR PRIZES

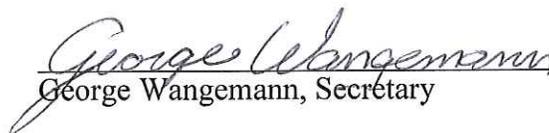
City of Gainesville provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners. Chairman Norton thanked City of Gainesville for hosting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**RMNYELLOWMRC 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	P (R)	P	
	Jerry Payne	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	P (R)
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	P
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	P	P	P	A	A	P			A	P	P	P
	James Grogan	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P			P (R)	P	P	P
	Charlie Auvermann	P (R)	P	P	P	P	A	P			P	P	A	P
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P	P	P (R)	P	A	A	P (R)			P (R)	P	P (R)	P
	Ralph Perry	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	A			A	P	A	A
	Randall Toussaint	A	P (R)	P	A	A	P	P			A	P	A	P (R)
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P (R)	P	P	P
	Ralph Owens	P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P			P	P	P	P
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	P	P	A			P	P	A	P
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A	P	P	P	A	P	P			P	P	P	P
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	P (R)	P	P	P			P	A	P	P
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A	P	A	P	P			P	P	P	P
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)		P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	
	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		A	P	P	A	
HART	Ricky Carter							P (N)						
	Tray Hiels	P	A	A	P	P	P	A		A	A	P	A	
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	A	P		P	P	P	P	
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	A	A	P	P	P	P		A	P	P	P (R)	
	Sam Norton*	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	A	P	P		P	A	A	P	

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary