

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Union County Farmers Market/Cannery
Blairsville, GA
June 27, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the Union County Farmers Market and Cannery in Blairsville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Union County and City of Blairsville.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to Union County and City of Blairsville hosting the meeting.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris welcomed everyone to Union County and City of Blairsville. Mr. Paris was very excited to have a special guest to stop by on his way to conduct a baseball camp in the Blairsville area. He introduced Brian Jordan, former Braves and Falcon player to the audience. Mr. Jordan spoke of his passion for kids that he acquired by being raised by his Mother which taught kids with special needs. In 1998, he formed the Brian Jordan Foundation which provides scholarships for children so they could get a college education. He also wrote children's books, formed a literacy program, and also a health and fitness program for children. The foundation provides baseball camps to help children learn that physical activity can be fun and at the same time teach them that education should be their number one priority. He thanked Mr. Paris for allowing him to stop by and also the community's support.

Mr. Paris stated that this Council's program would be a little different. He divided the attendees into two groups. One group toured the new Union County Cannery while the other toured the Farmers Market that was set up with approximately ten vendors. After the tour, the groups swapped and toured the other facility. Mr. Paris, Pam Warden, Mickey Cummings, and Larry Garrett explained and demonstrated how the two facilities worked. People were actually working in the Cannery peeling peaches and canning them for the Council to see.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL GUESTS

City of Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley welcomed everyone to Union County and the City of Blairsville and also to the fantastic facility that the County built for the area citizens. He stated that the farmers are most appreciative of these two facilities that enable them to buy and sale their produce and also to preserve them at the cannery. Mr. Conley introduced three of the City's Council Members; Rhonda Mahan, Betty Easter, and Martha Cone.

Commissioner Paris spoke of the great working relationship that the County and the City of Blairsville have. He thanked the City for helping to sponsor this meeting, the vendors for setting up at the Farmers Market, and to Ruby Red's Wagon catering service for the delicious meal. He introduced the County's staff, Larry Garrett, Peggy Deyton, Jennifer Queen, Robin Gazaway, Pam Warden, Mitch Griggs, Cindy Williams, and also his wife Dinah, and daughter Jessica.

PROGRAM

Commissioner Paris gave a brief history on the Farmers Market and Cannery. For a number of years he had envisioned Union County having a Farmers Market. For the first four years, they operated the Farmers Market out of the parking lot of the Courthouse. Each year, participation grew and on the fourth year the parking lot was filled. They knew then that they needed to find some property and build a facility. It was placed on the ballot as a SPLOST project. The Regional Commission assisted Union County in securing some grant money also for the project.

At that time, the school system had the old cannery and approximately three years ago they made the decision to shut it down. Union County took it over and ran it for two years. The condition on the equipment and building was deteriorating and the insurance company said they would not insure it due to the age of the boiler. Union County constructed a new building and began to search for equipment. Some of the equipment came from Dawson County due to them closing their cannery. The building was finished in 2012 and they have been overwhelmed with the people wanting to use it. The two buildings cost approximately \$650,000 in grant and SPLOST money. They have recently bought some property adjacent to these facilities for another road entrance and parking. Construction of two low water bridges will be built on this property in the near future.

PRESENTATION TO THE CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Paris presented to Chairman David Stovall a plaque of appreciation for his six years of leadership. Chairman Stovall has traveled all over the State representing our RC and Commissioner Paris stated that due to the Chairman's leadership, along with the work of the Executive Director and staff, he feels that we have the No. 1 Regional Commission in the State of Georgia.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Sam Norton stated that we are missing one VIP from our group. Stan Darnell passed away on June 21st. He was one of our fellow Council Members and will truly be missed. A moment of silence was observed in his memory.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the May 30, 2013 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Sam Norton. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Stovall reported that Commissioner Mike Beatty would be leaving DCA on August 1st to become the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Great Promise Partnership. Ms. Gretchen Corbin has been appointed as the new DCA Commissioner. Ms. Corbin was previously the Deputy Commissioner of Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis stated that the GMRC was proud to have had three people from our region to serve as President of ACCG. J.B. Jones, Lamar Paris served previously and Mike Berg is the current President. No other region has had three to serve in this capacity.

Mr. Lewis thanked everyone that attended the visitation and Celebration of Life for Rabun County Commission Chairman and GMRC Council Member Butch Darnell. County Manager Jim Bleckley will be representing Rabun County on our Council until a special election is held for the Commission Chairman position.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of May 31, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$518,741, receivables of \$183,473 and payables of \$269,047, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$433,167. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013 indicated Revenue Income of \$1,315,363, Expenditures of \$1,171,403, with 92 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Will Wade made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Dean Scarborough. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of FY14 GMRC Budget

Finance Committee Chairman Bill Chafin stated that all Council Members were previously provided copies of the Draft FY14 Budget for their review. The Finance Committee made a motion to accept the Budget as presented. Chairman Stovall asked for any discussion. There being none, a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Update of Regional Agenda

Planning Director Adam Hazell presented the Annual Update of the Regional Agenda at the May Council Meeting and asked for comments. Comments that were received have been incorporated into this document. This year, we are beginning to merge the Regional Plan with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) so in the future we would only have to do one annual update process. The final document with comments that were received was emailed out last week. The Executive Committee recommended approval of this document. Motion was made by Bill Chafin and seconded by Doug Wayne to approval the Annual Update and to submit it to DCA for their review. Motion carried unanimously.

Transit Update

Mr. Hazell has discussed this with the Council at the last four Council Meetings. The contract would be between the GMRC and transit service providers within the region, as part of our proposed contract with the Dept. of Human Services. The extent of our involvement would be for us to act as the contracting party and then process invoices on behalf of those agreements, with the service providers assuming all liability for the performance of the actual service and DHS ultimately responsible for the general program. The contract has been sent to our legal counsel for review regarding the liability for GMRC. The decision that needs to be made is whether or not GMRC wants to enter into this agreement with DHS. The Executive Committee recommended that the Council give the Executive Director and Council Chairman the authority to sign the contract at the point that it is suitable by legal counsel. Motion was made by L.J. Harrison and seconded by J.B. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

WD Contracts with RYDC and Rapid Response

Workforce Development Director John Phillips informed the Council that all thirteen counties in our region send all their youth detention to the RYDC in Gainesville. Most of these youth do not have a high school diploma. This was presented to the WD Board and the Executive Committee for consideration of entering into a contract with Lanier Tech to provide an instructor at the Detention Center who would submit half their time to teaching male youth and the other half to female youth to help get their GED while incarcerated. If they are moved to another facility or if they are paroled, they will follow-up on them and this would be part of their probation. We feel this would help prevent these youth from reentering into the system. Motion was made by Travis Turner and was seconded by Chris Dockery to enter into this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Phillips also informed the Council that the Governor's Office has offered for our Workforce Development to handle the Rapid Response Program. Rapid Response is where any company with 50 or more employees in our area shuts down, WD would go in with the Mobile Training Units and provide services to the employees that are losing they jobs. They would assist them in applying for jobs, preparing or updating their resumes, and instruct them how to sign up for unemployment. WD has already been offering these services, but the Governor's Office has submitted us with a contract for up to \$150,000 to operate the program. This was previously taken before the WD Board and the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Sam Norton

to enter into a contract with the Governor's Office to provide Rapid Response in our area. Motion was seconded by Bill Chafin and carried unanimously.

Appointment of GMRC Private Sector Appointments

Chairman Stovall referenced a list of the Council Private Sector Appointments for the upcoming year. All appointments have confirmed that they would serve. Motion was made by George Wangemann to accept this list of appointments. Motion was seconded by Chris Dockery and carried unanimously.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Stovall stated that there was a real estate item that the Council needed to discuss. Bill Black made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session allowed by OCGA 50-14-4 for the purpose of discussing this item. Motion was seconded by J.B. Jones.

Motion was made by Travis Turner to instruct Danny Lewis and Sam Norton to complete a financial analysis of moving the WD office and report back to the Council in July. Motion was seconded by Chris Dockery. Vote was 24 Ayes and 1 Abstained.

Vote taken:

Jerry Payne	Aye
Leslie George	Aye
James Grogan	Aye
Brian Tam	Aye
David Strickland	Aye
Audrey Turner	Aye
George Wangemann	Abstained
Deborah Mack	Aye
Bill Myers	Aye
Bill Chafin	Aye
Chris Dockery	Aye
Sam Norton	Aye
J.B. Jones	Aye
Debbie Chisholm	Aye
L.J. Harrison	Aye
Bill Kendall	Aye
Andrea Gibby	Aye
David Stovall	Aye
Lamar Paris	Aye
Jim Conley	Aye
Mitch Griggs	Aye
Travis Turner	Aye
Bill Black	Aye
Rex Farmer	Aye
Paul Kreager	Aye

Motion was made by Doug Wayne and was seconded by Bill Chafin to end the Closed Executive Session and that the Council Meeting reconvene and at that time the Chairman execute an affidavit stating the subject matter of the closed portion of the Council meeting was with the exception by OCGA 50-14-4(b).

Presentation of Chairman's Award

Executive Director Danny Lewis recognized and thanked Chairman David Stovall, Vice Chairman Sam Norton, and Secretary L.J. Harrison for their service and presented each with a gift as a token of the Council's appreciation. Vice Chairman Norton commended Chairman Stovall for all his hard work and accomplishments while he served as Council Chairman. He presented him with a Recognition Award and thanked him for not only carrying, but waving, the RC flag all the way from Tennessee to the coast of Georgia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

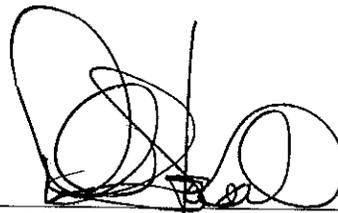
Chairman Stovall announced that he had two goals during his tenure as Chairman. One was to have 75 people in attendance each month and we missed that goal only one month. The second was to adjourn by 8:00 and we have only missed this two months. He stated, "That is the result you get when active people get involved and participate".

DOOR PRIZES

Union County and City of Blairsville provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2012-2013

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COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/26/12	8/30/12	9/27/12	10/25/12	11/15/12	12/7/12	1/31/13	2/28/13	3/28/13	4/25/13	5/30/13	6/27/13
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	(N)A	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	A
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	P	P
	Leslie George	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P(R)	P
	Mike Berg	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	A
DAWSON	James Grogan		(N)P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A
	Brian Tam							(N)P	P	P(R)	P	P	P
FORSYTH	Ralph Perry	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	E	P	A
	Vacant												
	David Strickland							(N)P	P	P	P	P	P
FRANKLIN	Ralph Owens	P(R)	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
	Sonny James		(N)P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	E	A	A
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	P
BALL	Vacant												
	Diek Mccum							(N)P	A	A	E	P	P(R)
	George Wangemann	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P
	Deborah Mack	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	A	P
HART	Bill Myers	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
	Tray Hicks	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	A
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery							(N)P	A	P	A	P	P
	Sam Norton**	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	P

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RABUN	Stan Darnell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	V
	Debbie Chisholm	P (R)	P (R)	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
	Ron Seib	P	P (R)	P	A	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P	A	P (R)
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	A	P (R)	P
	Andrea Gibby	P (R)	A	P	P	A	A	A	P	A	P	P	P
	David Stovall*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	P	P
	Jim Conley	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	P	P	P
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	(R) P	A	A	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A
	Bill Black	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	P
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Paul Kreeger	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	P
	Will Wade	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A
SPEAKER APPT.	Vacant												
	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary