

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Hall County Government Offices
Gainesville, Georgia
June 29, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Hall County Government Offices in Gainesville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Hall County Commission.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Hall County Commission Chairman Richard Higgins welcomed everyone to Hall County and thanked the RC for what they have done for the County. He recognized County Commissioner Billy Powell; County Manager Randy Knighton; County Clerk Jessica York; and GMRC Council Member Rex Farmer and wife, Rachel.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Hall County for hosting tonight's meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Andrew Seaver, Senator Perdue's Office; Bruce Cutler, Small Business Development Corporation; and Brittney Pittman and Annaka Woodruff, Appalachian Regional Commission Program Managers.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Deborah Mack gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROGRAM

Mr. Lee Beckman with Georgia Ports Authority gave an update on the Georgia Ports Project. Mr. Beckman presented a very informative program on the Georgia Ports and how they impact our state economically. Georgia has one deepwater terminal, which is Garden City Port located in Savannah. This port is the largest single US terminal and has more neopanamax cranes than any other US terminal. It is also ranked the fastest growing port out of the top ten ports for a 10-year period. This port has been deepened to allow larger ships to access the canal. Mr. Beckman spoke on how Garden City Port affects the traffic on the water, roads, and rail systems.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the May 25, 2017 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance

report as presented and was seconded by James Grogan. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough introduced our newest GMRC Council Member, Pete Amos. Mr. Amos will be replacing Todd Levent as the representative for Forsyth County. Chairman Scarborough welcomed him on board.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman announced that the RC is finally fully staffed. Ms. Karen Clark has joined the WorkSource staff as their new receptionist. Daniel Martin introduced Laurin Yoder as the new Project Manager for the Economic Development Department.

WorkSource is proud that their new office building is up and running. Ms. Feldman thanked the staff for their hard work during this time. This office never stopped operating during the move.

The Workforce Development Board met at the new location and toured the new facility. During the meeting, they also approved the One-Stop Center. This Center will have 12 core partners at one central location for easy access to the public. The Board also approved Hopkins and Associates as the One-Stop Operator. These items needed to be in operation by July 1, 2017.

The Youth Department held its first inaugural Youth Conference on June 9th in Helen. This event was very successful with 15 participants. They are already making plans for the next conference.

Excited to announce that the Map 21 project has submitted the first of three data submittals for Hall County.

Ms. Feldman attended the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Conference in Savannah and represented the RC at the Georgia Association of Regional Commission (GARC) booth. James Grogan, Mayor of Dawsonville, serves as the District II President for GMA. At the conference, two of GMRC Council Members received distinguished awards. David Austin, City of Toccoa, received the Certificate of Dedication Award and Mayor Audrey Turner, Town of Alto, the Certificate of Excellence Award from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute.

Each Council Member received a County Fact Sheet when they signed in. This is a result from an idea that was given at the Council Training in February. The Fact Sheet includes information about what the RC has done for your county during the last five years. These Fact Sheets will be placed on the GMRC website for your access.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

2017-18 GMRC Private Sector Representatives

According to the Bylaws, the GMRC Private Sector Representatives should be reappointed each year. Reappointment letters had previously been sent to the county and the cities within for a recommendation for their Private Sector Representative who will serve for 2017-18. Chairman Scarborough stated that the Private Sector Representatives on the Council are some of the most active members. Notification was received from all counties with the exception of Dawson County. This appointment needed to go before their County Commission before making their reappointment. The confirmed reappointments are Leslie George, Banks; Robert Long, Forsyth; Gerald Voyles, Franklin; Ken Schubring, Habersham; Deborah Mack, Hall; Bill Chafin, Hart; J.B. Jones, Lumpkin; Doug Wayne, Rabun; David Stovall, Towns; Mitch Griggs, Union; and Bill Black, White. This slate of Private Sector Representatives comes as a recommendation from the Executive Committee. Jim Conley made a motion to accept this recommendation and was seconded by Ricky Carter. Motion carried unanimously.

Banking Corporate Resolution

BB&T handles the bank account for the GMRC Revolving Loan Fund. With Mr. Lewis' retirement, a corporate resolution for the bank needed to be done to update the names on the account. The names on the account will be Council Chairman Dean Scarborough, RLF Committee Chairman Jim Conley, and Executive Director Heather Feldman. Bill Chafin made a motion to approve the bank corporate resolution with the new names. Ken Schubring seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Aerial Photography

Ms. Faith Bryan updated the Council on the 2018 Aerial Photography/LiDAR Project. At this time, 30 counties and 10 cities have committed to the project. It will include 8,994 total square miles and cover five Regional Commission areas. Request for Proposals were sent out and six proposals were received. A RFP Review Committee was formed and charged with reviewing the RFPs. Three vendors were asked to make presentations before the Committee. Atlantic was chosen by the Committee with prices of 6" at \$71.70 per square mile and 3" at \$174.14 per square mile. The RFP Review Committee recommends the approval of Atlantic as the vendor for the 2018 Aerial Photography/LiDAR Project. Ricky Carter made a motion to accept Atlantic as the contractor for this project. Tray Hicks seconded and motion carried.

DOOR PRIZES

Hall County provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

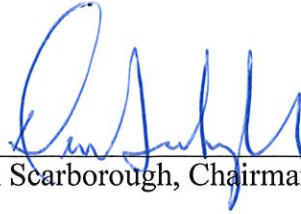
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's Council meeting will be in Rabun County.

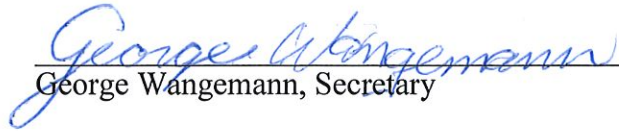
Chris Dockery informed the Council that Mayor Gary McCullough, City of Dahlonega, had a stroke and is now in rehab. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 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	P (R)	A	P (R)
	Jerry Payne	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P (R)	P
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P	P	P (R)
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond							(N) P	P	P	A	P	P
	James Grogan	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
FORSYTH	Pete Amos												(N) P
	Chuck Welch	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Robert Long	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	A
FRANKLIN	Thomas Bridges							(N) P	P	P	A	P	P
	Ralph Owens	P	P (R)	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
	Gerald Voyles	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford							(N) P	A	A	P	A	P
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P
HALL	Richard Higgins							(N) P (R)	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	P
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	P
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
	Tray Hicks	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P (R)	A	A	P
	Bill Chafin	P	P	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	P	P
	Sam Norton*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary