

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

White County Senior Center  
Cleveland, GA  
July 25, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the White County Senior Center in Cleveland, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by White County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to White County for hosting the meeting.

Travis Turner, White County Commission Chairman, welcomed everyone to the White County and the newly renovated and expanded Senior Center. The facility was doubled in size with the help of a \$300,000 CDBG grant, county funds, and even money that was raised by individual senior citizens of White County. He thanked GMRC and DCA for assisting with the CDBG funding and Mike Grizzle of Scroggs and Grizzle for the construction of the building. Mr. Turner also recognized Senior Center Director, Ms. Bonnie York for endless hours of service and for her love of ministering to the senior citizens of White County.

Mr. Turner recognized Senator Steve Gooch and local officials from White County, City of Cleveland, and City of Helen that were present.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Cheryl Smith, Dept. of Economic Development; Kathy Papa, Dept. of Community Affairs, and welcomed new GMRC Council Member representing Forsyth County Private Sector, Randall Toussaint. Mr. Toussaint is with the Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced Commissioner Mike Beatty who would be retiring from Department of Community Affairs on July 31, 2013 after serving as Commissioner for ten years.

Commissioner Beatty stated that he was not retiring, he was just taking on a new adventure that would involve everyone in the room. He also stated he felt humbled to be the DCA Commissioner due to the fact of having the opportunity to work with all the cities and counties in Georgia. In the past ten years, the State of Georgia has had a 98% success rate of jobs created, which is a total of 12,000 new jobs. Commissioner Beatty spoke with Governor Deal about a new program for kids called "Great Promise Kids". Two years ago a pilot program was done with 101 high school seniors. At the end of the program, 90% of the students graduated, 71% are going to college, and 10% are going into the military. This program brings the private sector, public leadership, and school boards together to help make a better life for our kids. As a society, we need to come together to touch the lives of people every day. Commissioner Beatty has a goal that would take this program into all the counties in Georgia in the next five years. He feels that our grandchildren need a better life than we had.

Mr. Beatty will be replaced by Commissioner Gretchen Corbin. He told her that the most valuable tool that DCA has is the partnership with the RCs. He is excited about working with the Great Promise Kids Program and encourages everyone to work together to make life better for our next generation.

Chairman Norton and Mr. Lewis presented Commissioner Beatty with gifts from the RC in appreciation for the leadership and always being a good coach and friend to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the June 27, 2013 meeting. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Bill Black. Motion carried unanimously.

#### REPORTS

##### Executive Director's Report

Danny Lewis thanked the previous three GMRC officers for their service and dedication. David Stovall served as the Council Chairman for six years. Mr. Lewis also congratulated the three new officers.

About two years ago when the GMRC took over the Workforce Development operation, the RC reached out to some of the other RCs that had the WD program at that time to see how they handled their financial and day-to-day operations of their program. They met with Northeast Georgia RC to get information on different areas of the project. This week the GMRC was able to pay back the gesture by meeting with Three Rivers RC. Some of their staff came and met with John Phillips and Becky Sievers to get information on how we handle some of the WD procedures. There are three RCs in the state that are in the process of taking over WD. Mr. Lewis thanked Mike Berg for have the vision to vote for GMRC to take over the WD program for our area.

Faith Bryan is working on the Mt. Hope Cemetery project in Dahlonega. Several years ago, Faith did the same type GIS project of the historic cemetery in White County and won a NADO

Innovation Award for it. Mr. Lewis also recognized and thanked Patrick Larson for his work on the White County Senior Center project.

### Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented in the Council packets. The Cash Position as of June 30, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$589,368, receivables of \$164,822 and payables of \$410,970, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$343,220. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 indicated Revenue Income of \$1,410,084, Expenditures of \$1,280,998, with 100 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Leslie George made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Brian Tam. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Council Committee Appointments

Chairman Norton referred to the Council Committee Appointments list that was distributed in the packets. His goal is to have every Council Member appointed to at least one committee and make everyone an active participant on that Committee. New Council Members will be added to committees as they are added to the Council. The Chairman of each committee will set the pace for that committee. The Chairman asked for any questions regarding the committee appointments. There being none, a motion was made by David Stovall to approve these appointments and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Council Training

Mr. Lewis announced that the RC will be holding two training sessions for the Council Members. These sessions will be held at the GMRC offices on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If any Council Member has not attended a training session before, they will need to attend one of these meetings. Peggy Lovell will be sending out more information on this.

#### Cruisin' for Coats

Samantha O'Day spoke to the Council regarding the Cruisin' for Coats event that Workforce Development is sponsoring in each of our 13 counties. Council packets contain information flyers and a list of collection locations in them. Coats will be collected until November 1<sup>st</sup> and then distributed to individuals that need them in that county. This event will wrap-up with a Car Show to be held at Thunder Road/Georgia Racing Hall of Fame in Dawsonville on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Entry fee for the Car Show will be one adult or two children's coats or \$20. She encouraged everyone to distribute these flyers in their area. For more information you may contact Ms. O'Day.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Norton stated that the Council needed to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition. Chris Dockery made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session allowed by OCGA 50-14-4 and motion was seconded by Jim Conley. Motion carried.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mitch Griggs authorizing negotiation to terminate the lease on the Hilton Drive office contingent on the CLEO Board voting to move forward also. Motion was seconded by L.J. Harrison. Vote was 31 Ayes and 3 Abstained.

Vote taken:

Danny Maxwell	Aye
Jerry Payne	Aye
Leslie George	Aye
Mike Byrd	Abstained
James Grogan	Aye
Brian Tam	Aye
Ralph Perry	Aye
David Strickland	Aye
Ralph Owens	Aye
Gerald Voyles	Aye
Sonny James	Aye
Audrey Turner	Aye
George Wangemann	Abstained
Deborah Mack	Aye
Bill Myers	Aye
Bill Chafin	Aye
Chris Dockery	Abstained
Sam Norton	Aye
J.B. Jones	Aye
Debbie Chisholm	Aye
Doug Wayne	Aye
Dean Scarborough	Aye
L.J. Harrison	Aye
Bill Kendall	Aye
David Stovall	Aye
Lamar Paris	Aye
Jim Conley	Aye
Mitch Griggs	Aye
Annie Sutton	Aye
Travis Turner	Aye
Bill Black	Aye
Rex Farmer	Aye
Paul Kreager	Aye
Peter Hill	Aye

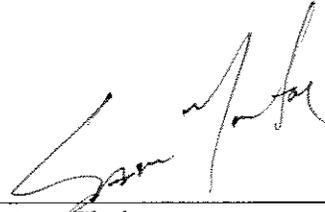
Motion was made by David Stovall and was seconded by Jerry Payne to end the Closed Executive Session and that the Council Meeting reconvene and at that time the Chairman execute an affidavit stating the subject matter of the closed portion of the Council meeting. (Affidavit attached)

DOOR PRIZES

White County and Cities of Cleveland and Helen provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



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Sam Norton, Chairman



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George Wangemann, Secretary

# AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oath, Sam Norton, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

1) I was the presiding officer of a Council Meeting of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

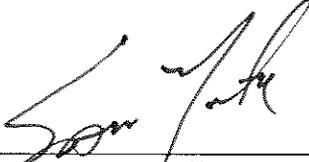
2) That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3) The subject matter of the closed meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013, which was closed for the purpose(s) of:  
 Personnel  Real Estate  Litigation as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

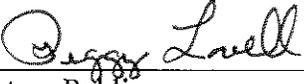
4) This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-17-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, GMRC Council

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2013-2014

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/25/13	8/29/13	9/26/13	10/10/13	11/21/13	12/6/13	1/30/14	2/27/14	3/27/14	4/27/14	5/29/14	6/26/14
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P											
	Jerry Payne	P											
	Leslie George	P											
	Mike Berg	P											
	James Grogan	P											
DAWSON	Charlie Auvermann	A											
	Brian Tam	P											
	Ralph Perry	P											
FORSYTH	Randall Toussaint	(N) P											
	David Strickland	P											
	Ralph Owens	P											
FRANKLIN	Gerald Voyles	P											
	Sonny James	P											
	Andrey Turner	P											
HABERSHAM	Vacant												
	Dick Mecum	P (R)											
	George Wangemann***	P											
HALL	Deborah Mack	P											
	Bill Myers	P											
	Tray Hicks	P											
HART	Bill Chafin	P											
	Chris Dockery	P											
	Sam Norton*	P											
LUMPKIN	J.B. Jones	P											

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2013-2014**

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COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/25/13	8/29/13	9/26/13	10/10/13	11/21/13	12/6/13	1/50/14	2/27/14	3/27/14	4/24/14	5/29/14	6/26/14
RABUN	Greg Jones	(N) R											
	Debbie Chisholm	P											
	Douglas Wayne	P											
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P											
	Ron Scib	A											
	L.J. Harrison	P											
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P											
	Andrea Gibby	A											
	David Stovall	P											
UNION	Lamar Paris	P											
	Jim Conley	P											
	Mitch Griggs	P											
WHITE	Travis Turner	P											
	Annie Sutton	P											
	Bill Black	P											
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P											
	Paul Kresger	P											
	Will Wade	A											
	Vacant												
SPEAKER APPT.	Peter Hill	P											

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

\* Chairman  
\*\* Vice Chairman  
\*\*\* Secretary