

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Forsyth Conference Center
Cumming, GA
August 28, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Forsyth Conference Center in Cumming, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Forsyth County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Ms. Cindy Mills, Forsyth County Commission Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to Forsyth County on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Mills introduced County Commissioners, Jim Boff, Todd Lavent, and Brian Tam; and County Manager Doug Derrer, Also attending from City of Cumming were Councilmen Ralph Perry and Rupert Sexton.

Ms. Mills stated that it was a pleasure to be meeting at the Forsyth Conference Center. This facility was opened in 2010 and has been a great regional resource for the area due to the growth rate. Forsyth County is one of the fastest growing counties and with this growth there is a tremendous demand for infrastructure. The County just opened a new animal shelter; the courthouse and jail are under construction; Park and Recreation has 20 existing parks; and a major emphasis on education with the University of North Georgia and Lanier Technical College facilities in Forsyth County.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Department of Economic Development; Frank Riley, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D; 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.

PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced our speaker Dr. Ray Perren. Dr. Perren is the President of Lanier Technical College. He presented a program on the technical education system. The Forsyth Conference Center was built through a partnership of the people of Forsyth County and the Technical Colleges of Georgia. The mission of the technical colleges and all other colleges is workforce development. The two technical colleges that are located in our area are Lanier Technical College and North Georgia Technical College. Lanier Tech has two campuses and North Georgia Tech has three campus locations in our region. Georgia has 23

technical colleges and has worked to make Georgia Number One in workforce development. The technical colleges accomplish workforce development through three programs – credit programs, economic development programs, and adult education programs. Dr. Perrin spoke on how students could obtain a degree in any of these programs and also how they work directly with the Georgia Mountains Workforce Development to enable people to become trained and then placed into the workforce. He emphasized that a person does not have to have a four year college degree to be successful, but they do need additional training after high school.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice-Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the July 31, 2014 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis referred to his report in the Council packet. Mr. Lewis has spoken to four civic clubs this month. These presentations inform the citizens out in our cities and counties what the RC is doing.

Cheryl Smith with Georgia Department of Economic Development helped coordinate the Bon Appetite Appalachia event that was held earlier today at Jaemor Farms. This was a well attended event by officials from Appalachian Regional Commission (Washington and Atlanta), Department of Community Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Economic Development, and others. It was great to have these dignitaries in our region.

Financial Report

Mr. Lewis presented the Financial Reports for July. The Cash Position as of July 31, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$680,314, receivables of \$159,790 and payables of \$435,459, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$404,645. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2014 – July 31, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$283,241, Expenditures of \$404,851, with 8 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

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Dahlonega Historic District Design Guidelines

Planning Director Adam Hazell introduced Joe Rothwell. Mr. Rothwell is a Regional Planner and works with Historic Preservation projects. He spoke on one of the projects that he did for the City of Dahlonega which won one of the NADO Innovation Awards this year. He developed and authored the Dahlonega Downtown Historic District Design Guidelines. This project helped to guide appropriate growth and development for new construction and economic development opportunities in the National Register of Historic Places listed commercial district. The

guidelines are concise and user friendly so that the Historic Preservation Commission, property owners and developers may navigate the document and utilize it for their specific needs. It also allows Dahlonga to take a proactive, socially responsible and sustainable approach to economic development and investment in its historic core while not sacrificing the wealth of historic buildings that contribute towards its regional identity and economic vitality.

CEDS Document Review Process

Heather Feldman, Director of Economic Development informed the Council that each year the RC is tasked with an update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. This document contains a summary of highlights that were accomplished during this year. Ms. Feldman recognized the CEDS Committee members that were present. This document will need to be reviewed by the Council and considered at the September Council Meeting.

Charlie Auvermann made a motion to place this document on the table for review until the September meeting and was seconded by Will Wade. Motion carried unanimously. This document will be emailed to the Council.

Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George, Annual Committee Chairman reported that the Save-the-Date notices for the Annual Meeting have been sent out to the cities and counties. She encouraged everyone to mark their calendars for December 5th. Reception will begin at 4:45 and meeting will follow at 6:00. This year's theme is a "Classic Christmas". The Committee has secured classic entertainment and the ticket price remains at \$40.00. She asked each of the cities/counties to purchase tickets for their private sector representative that serve on the Council as a token of their appreciation. Each Council Member was encouraged to obtain at least one sponsor for the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

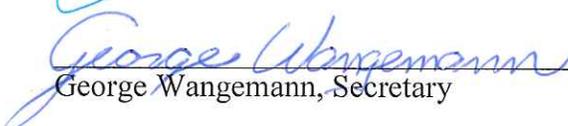
The September meeting will be sponsored by White County Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015

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

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

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary