

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

The Smith House Restaurant
Dahlonega, GA
September 26, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the Smith House Restaurant in Dahlonega, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Lumpkin County Commission Chairman Chris Dockery welcomed everyone to Lumpkin County. He recognized Lumpkin County Commissioners Clarence Grindle, Clarence Stowers, and Steve Shaw; and County Manager Stan Kelley. City of Dahlonega's Mayor Gary McCollough recognized City Council Members Gerald Lord and Sam Norton; Joel Cordle, DDAA Director; Lou Stewart, City Clerk; Ricky Stewart, City Engineer/Public Works Director; and Jimmy Faulkner, former GMRDC Board Member. Mayor McCollough thanked everyone for coming to Dahlonega and to the Smith House.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Scarborough recognized special guests Danette Smith, Georgia Department of Labor; Kathy Papa and Michael Harden, Department of Community Affairs; and Barton Lowrey, Aide for Sen. Isakson's Office.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Col Billy Wells, Vice President of the University of North Georgia and Mary Transue, Associate Vice President of Executive Affairs gave an update on the college. North Georgia College and State University and Gainesville State University combined to form the University of North Georgia. The University is now a regional multi-campus facility which has four campuses with 15,763 students currently enrolled. The location of the four campuses are Dahlonega, Gainesville, Toccoa, and Cumming. They are currently working on a campus in Blairsville. The Dahlonega campus is the Military College. They provided information on what the University has to offer to their students in our region and also the Community.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the August 29, 2013 meeting. L.J. Harrison made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Norton reported that the Council is still working on the Organization of Ethics and will be seeing changes to the Bylaws in the next couple of months.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis and Heather Feldman hosted a meeting at the GMRC Office for Senators Frank Ginn, Steve Gooch, and John Wilkinson along the Economic Development Directors from our area to discuss economic development issues in the GMRC region.

On September 11th and 18th, GMRC conducted two training classes for new Council Members. Fourteen attended this training and the next one is planned for the first of the year for new Council Members that will be appointed January, 2014.

John Phillips and two Workforce Development staff attended the Southeast Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference in Lexington Kentucky.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by Mr. Lewis. The Cash Position as of August 31, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$599,975, receivables of \$229,748 and payables of \$335,949, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$493,774. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$725,966, Expenditures of \$627,870, with 16 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Rex Farmer made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Check Signature

Chairman Norton discussed with the Council that since the GMRC has been handling the DHS Transit Program for our region, the RC office issues checks to the transit providers for the number of rides that they perform during the month. This is pass-through money from DHS to the providers. Several of the counties use T&T Transportation for their transit services. Due to this, their check for August is \$68,000. In the GMRC Policies, the Executive Director can only sign checks up to \$25,000. The Executive Committee recommended that a new Procurement Policy be written which would address items like this, but it will take several months for this to be written and approved. It was suggested that the Council approve each month for the

Executive Director to be allowed to sign these checks in excess of \$25,000 until the new Policy is written.

Bill Chafin made a motion to allow the Executive Director to sign this check in excess of the preapproved limit. Doug Wayne seconded the motion. There was no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Council Training Participants

Chairman Norton and GMRC staff represented certificates to all new Council Members that attended the Training Sessions. He thanked each one for taking the time to attend and learn more about their responsibilities and the Regional Commission.

Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George, Annual Meeting Committee Chairman, stated this year's reception will begin at 4:45 p.m. and the dinner and awards will follow at 6:00 p.m. She challenged every Council Member to secure at least one \$250 sponsor for this event. Cities and Counties were asked to provide door prizes from their area. The deadline for purchasing tickets is November 17th.

Consideration of the CEDS Document

The Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) document was presented to the Council at the August meeting for their review. Chairman Norton asked if there were any questions or discussion on the document. Charlie Auvermann made a motion to approve the CEDS document for submittal to the Economic Development Administration. Motion was seconded by Will Wade and motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RLF Update

Jim Conley, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Committee Chairman proudly reported that the Committee had been very active this month. Prior to tonight's meeting, the RLF Committee met and approved two loans. One loan of \$52,500 will allow an insurance agency to buy property and relocate in Gainesville. The second loan that was approved is for a restaurant in Gainesville, which already has one loan and was securing an additional loan of \$20,000, to locate another restaurant in the local mall. Mr. Conley encouraged Council Members to let people in their area know about the RLF Program.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Norton stated that the Council needed to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and real estate acquisition. David Stovall made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session allowed by OCGA 50-14-4 and motion was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion was unanimous.

After discussion, motion was made by Bill Chafin and was seconded by Dean Scarborough 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). Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Norton reported that two items were discussed in the Closed Session and action needed to be taken.

The Landlord for the Workforce Development Office on Hilton Drive has asked if he would be allowed to show the office space to potential tenants while occupied by staff. Sonny James made a motion to allow the Landlord to show the building with the stipulations that GMRC has 12 hour notice and a member of the GM Management Team accompany them for security reasons. Motion was seconded by Leslie George and motion passed unanimously.

The second item was to establish a negotiating team to be able to meet without requiring the Council to meet monthly. It was recommended that Council Members Mike Berg, David Stovall, and Sam Norton serve on the negotiating team to act on behalf of the Council until a contractual motion or a motion to commence with litigation is needed. This motion was made by Jim Conley and seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion passed unanimously.

DOOR PRIZES

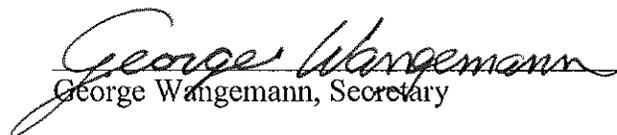
Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Sam Norton, Chairman



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 26th day of Sept., 2013.

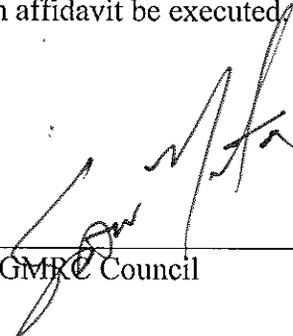
2) That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

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 26th day of Sept, 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 26th day of Sept., 2013.



Chair, GMRC Council

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 26th day of Sept., 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	4/24/14	5/29/14	6/26/14
RABUN	Greg Jones	(N) R	A	P (R)									
	Debbie Chisholm	P	P	A									
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P									
	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P									
STEPHENS	Ron Seib	A	P	A									
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P									
	Bill Kendall	P	P (R)	P									
TOWNS	Andrea Gibby	A	P	P									
	David Stovall	P	P	P									
	Lamar Paris	P	A	P									
UNION	Jim Conley	P	P	P									
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	A									
	Travis Turner	P	A	P (R)									
WHITE	Annie Sutton	P	P	P									
	Bill Black	P	P	A									
	Rex Farmer	P	P	P									
GOV APPT.	Paul Kreager	P	P	P									
	Will Wade	A	P	P									
	Vacant												
SPEAKER APPT.	Peter Hill	P	A	P									

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary