

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Dawsonville City Hall
November 20, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at the Dawsonville City Hall in Dawsonville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Dawsonville.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mayor James Grogan, City of Dawsonville, welcomed everyone to Dawsonville. He noted that the Racing Museum had been redone and invited everyone to take time to look through it.

Mayor Grogan recognized his wife, Carole and City Councilman Mike Sosebee and wife, Mary; and Clerk Sara Beacham as representing City of Dawsonville. He commended Ms. Beacham for the great job she did on making the arrangements for this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Senators Steve Gooch and Kevin Tanner; Tate O'Rourke and Daniela Belton, Senator Isakson's Office; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Jane O'Gorman, University of North Georgia; and Frank Riley, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Bill Chafin, Chairman of the Audit/Finance Committee, introduced Chris Edwards with McNair, Lemore, Middlebrooks, and Company, LLC. Mr. Edwards has been the GMRC Auditor for several years and has performed audits for several other Regional Commissions in Georgia.

Mr. Edwards reported to the Council that the GMRC was in good standing for the Audit ending on June 30, 2014. The RC had done a good job of handling the significant amount of growth that it had experienced in the past few years. They added the RLF Program, Workforce Development, and Transit for the Department of Human Services within the last three years. The RC funds have grown 600% in this time period.

The State wants all Regional Commissions to adopt a fund balance policy. According to the Audit, the GMRC has a fund balance of \$1.5M in cash. Regarding this, the RC is in great shape.

One area of concern is the defined benefit pension plan. GMRC at the present time is underfunded. The balance should be \$5.7M in retirement and it is currently at \$5.3M. Several years ago, this plan was 100% funded but due to the addition of new programs and more employees it has become underfunded. Mr. Edwards suggested one way to get caught up is if there was money in the budget, to make additional contributions. If not, next year when the RC is audited \$400,000 would have to be shown on the books as a new debt on the balance sheet.

Mr. Edwards stated that the GMRC had a clean audit with no findings. He thanked Mr. Lewis, Becky Sievers, and all the accounting staff for their help during the Audit.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the October 30, 2014 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by David Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis thanked the Council Members and staff that were able to attend the GARC Annual Conference at St. Simons on November 5th-7th. The Georgia Mountains region was well represented. Ms. Faith Bryan made a presentation on the aerial photography project and Heather Feldman made a presentation at the Executive Directors meeting. Adam Hazell, John Phillips, and Becky Sievers attended sessions for their departments.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for October. The Cash Position as of October 31, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$863,982, receivables of \$155,318 and payables of \$395,943, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$623,357. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2014 – October 31, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$1,725,946, Expenditures of \$1,819,773, with 33 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Tray Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of 2014 GMRC Audit

Bill Chafin commended Becky Sievers, Director of Finance and her staff for all the hard work that they had put into preparing for the auditors. Due to this, the auditors were able to come in and complete the audit in a short amount of time. This year's audit was a good audit with no findings.

Chairman Norton stated that the Council has had the Audit for their review since the October Council meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to approve the Audit as presented and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously.

GMRC Annual Meeting

Leslie George, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee stated that this year's theme for the Annual Meeting is a "Classic Christmas". She informed the Council that there were a few tickets left for this year's event, but they needed to be ordered by Tuesday. She encouraged all cities and counties to show their appreciation to their private sector representatives by ordering tickets for them. Door prizes are still needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid for Concrete Pad/Wall for MTU Shelter

Request for Proposals (RFPs) were previously sent out for the concrete pad for the shelter to be built on for the Mobile Training Units (MTUs). These units need to put under shelter to protect the satellite equipment on top of the units. Due to the way the land lays, there will need to be a wall built on one side of the concrete pad. Three bids were received and there was quite a big difference in the total price. Lowest bid came in from Kevin Williamson at \$9,499. The concrete pad and shelter will be paid for out of Workforce Development funds.

Tray Hicks made a motion to accept the lowest bid of \$9,499. It was seconded by Bill Chafin and motion carried unanimously.

New 401K Plan Financial Advisor

In 1978 the Regional Commission voted to contribute to a 401K Plan as a Social Security Replacement. The RC has had several brokers with the last one being Edward Jones. The employees and the RC submits approximately \$10,000 bi-weekly into the tax shelter accounts. The RC's Third Party Administrator (TPA) recommended that the RC go to a 401K Platform and financial advisor. Last month the Council voted to hire MassMutual as the 401K Platform. Our TPA has recommended that TransAmerica be our new financial advisor. Transamerica would charge 3% of all money invested (which is cheaper than what the employees are paying now) and there would be no start-up or set-up fees. Employees would be able to go on-line and do their own investing. Transamerica is available to do one-on-one counseling on the employees' individual accounts as needed.

Bill Chafin made a motion to approve Transamerica as the Regional Commission's new financial advisor. Motion was seconded by Dean Scarborough and motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Travel Allowance

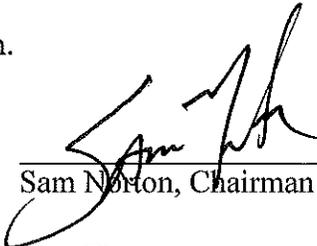
Chairman Norton at the last two Council meetings had discussed the adoption of the new State Travel Policy and the affect it would have on the Executive Director's current travel allowance. The Council had previously voted to purchase a new fleet vehicle that would be assigned to the Executive Director but nothing was determined as to how this would affect his travel allowance. After discussion, Rex Farmer made a motion to increase Mr. Lewis' compensation by \$500 per month in lieu of his travel allowance. L.J. Harrison seconded the motion and motion carried.

DOOR PRIZES

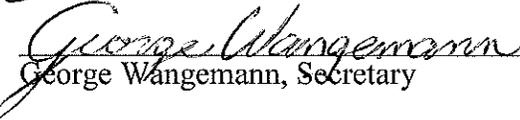
City of Dawsonville provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners. Goody bags were presented to each attendee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015

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

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

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary