

**HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA
REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 24, 2019**

Council Members Present

Theodore Wilkerson
Dr. Esco Hall, Jr.
Bob Brockman
Bob Little
Raymond Mullis
Guy Singletary
Irene Burney
Terry Branch
Terry McCorkle
James Benjamin
Vann Wooten
Jack Foskey
William F. “Bill” Lindsey
Jimmy Rogers
Len Tanner
Ronald Harrington
Chad Kenney
Bernie Weaver
Annie Williams
Susan Evans
John Raymond Turner
Izell Stephens, Jr.
James Thomas
Mike Roberts
Keith E. McNeal
G.M. Joiner, Jr.
Bobby Cox, Sr.
Alfonza Hall
Michael Estes
Clay Reid
Justin Franklin

Staff Present

Brett Manning
Janice Jones
Kayla Johnson
James Pope
Michelle Brown
Robin Nail

Guests

Alexis Eason, Job Training Unlimited
Claxton, Georgia
Bennie Watson, Telfair County
Mary Mullis, City of Eastman
Matt Donaldson, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Twin
City
Alex Hill, Congressman Rick Allen’s Office
Kit Lowe, Congressman Rick Allen’s Office
Bryan Rogers, County Administrator, Laurens
County Board of Commissioners
Jimmy Rogers, Laurens County Commissioner
Ora Hall, Baxley, Georgia

CALL TO ORDER

The Regional Council meeting for January 24, 2019, was held at the Mount Vernon/ Montgomery County Community Service and Senior Citizens Center in Mount Vernon, Georgia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chair Raymond Mullis. Chair Mullis welcomed everyone to the meeting and called on John Raymond Turner to give the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chair Mullis introduced and welcomed the guests: Alexis Eason, Job Training Unlimited, Claxton, Georgia; Bennie Watson, Telfair County; Mary Mullis, wife of Chair Raymond Mullis, Eastman, Georgia; Matt Donaldson, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Twin City; Alex Hill, Field Representative, and Kit Lowe, Field Representative, Congressman Rick Allen's office; Bryan Rogers, County Administrator, Laurens County; Jimmy Rogers, Commissioner, Laurens County; and Ora Hall, wife of Dr. Esco Hall, Jr., Baxley, Georgia.

ROLL CALL

Chair Mullis asked Michelle Brown to call the roll. The roll was called by Michelle, and a quorum was present with thirty-one (31) Council members present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Chair Mullis stated that the Minutes for the October 25, 2018 and November 15, 2018 RC Council Meetings had been mailed out to all Council Members and he would entertain a motion for approval. A motion was made by James Thomas and seconded by Annie Williams to approve the October and November Minutes, as mailed. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Mullis called on Janice Jones to give the financial report. Janice then informed the Council that the financial statements for the months October, November, and December was included in the packet on pages 15 through 25 and that they had also been mailed out to all Council Members. Janice stated that page 23 was the balance sheet by category for December. She then explained that on page 25 the year-to-date revenues for the month ending December exceed the expenses by \$18,446.44. Janice then asked if anyone had any questions. There being no questions, a motion was made by Annie Williams and seconded by John Raymond Turner to approve the financial statements. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WAYNE COUNTY TIA BAND CHANGE REQUEST

Chair Mullis called on Brett Manning, Executive Director for the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission to explain the band change request. Brett informed the Council that Wayne County had requested a band change.

Wayne County is requesting to move U.S. 341 Industrial Park Road from Band 3 to Band 2 with the funding for this project at \$533,000. The net government change for shifting these projects would be an increase of \$533,000 for Band 2 and a decrease of the same amount in Band 3. Brett stated that this request has been discussed with GDOT TIA staff and they are on board with this change. Brett explained that the reason they are requesting this change is that a possible new business candidate may be coming in and this will help to attract that new business. He also let them know that the TIA Citizens Review Panel had already approved pending Council approval.

There being no questions a motion was made by John Raymond Turner to approve the requested band change. A second was made by Michael Estes. The vote passed unanimously.

SETTING OF 2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chair Mullis called on Brett Manning to inform the Council on participation fees for 2019. Brett stated that we are required to set dues each year. He explained that we are not requesting an increase and it will stay at the minimum \$1 per population figure per government. A motion was made by James Thomas and seconded by Bob Brockman to approve the dues. The vote passed unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF FY 18 AUDIT REPORT

Chair Mullis called on Brett Manning to inform the Council on the FY 2018 Audit Report. Brett let the Council know that the audit was presented at the November Council meeting but because a quorum was not present it would need to be approved. He let them know that the Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC had received the highest or best report, that of an unmodified or clean opinion. The Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC had no audit findings.

There being no questions a motion was made by Theodore Wilkerson and seconded by Annie Williams to approve the FY 2018 Audit. The vote passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF GDOT 5304 TRANSIT PLANNING APPLICATION RESOLUTION

Chair Mullis called on Brett to inform the Council on the GDOT 5304 Resolution. Brett informed the Council that a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation for a grant under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5304 needed approval from the Council for submission. A motion was made by James Thomas and seconded by Annie Williams for submittal of this application. The vote passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF HOGARC LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PLANNING EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION

Brett informed the Council that a resolution needed to be passed recognizing 14 local governments who met the Excellence Planning Standards for Local Government Planning. Requirements for this award were to achieve at minimum 40 of the 91 Excellence Planning Standards from the 2014 *Green with Greener Days Ahead* Regional Plan. The designated cities are Abbeville, Cochran, Dublin, Eastman, Glennville, Lyons,

McRae-Helena, Mount Vernon, Reidsville, Vidalia, and the counties are Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, and Telfair. A motion was made by James Thomas and seconded by Annie Williams for these 14 local governments to be recognized. The vote passed unanimously.

GEORGIA DHS REGION 9 RESOLUTION TO ENTER CONTRACT

Brett presented the Council with a resolution to allow the Regional Commission to enter into an FY20 contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services to provide Coordinated Transportation for the region. A motion was made by James Thomas and seconded by Annie Williams to approve the resolution. The vote passed unanimously.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) REPORT

Chair Mullis then called on Alexis Eason to report to the Council on WIOA activities. Alexis updated the Council on the unemployment rate stating Georgia's Unemployment Rate for November was 3.3% which was a decrease of -.3% from the previous month. She let the Council know that the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region was at 4.2% unemployment rate which was a decrease of -.2% from the previous month. Alexis stated that this was the lowest unemployment rate she has seen in a while.

Alexis then went over the Customer Counts Report for July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. She stated that the services that are provided are listed in the left column and that some of those services are: ITA (Individual Training Accounts) these are people who are attending technical college or college; On-the-Job Training, which reimburses the employer 50% of the wages for the training; and the Youth Year-Round Program. She also let them know that 24,025 participants were served through the One-Stops. She stated that the total active and follow-up participants served were 1,153. She also let them know that the Staff Activities Report was included in the Council packet to inform them of the ongoing activities of JTU.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Mullis called on Executive Director Brett Manning to report to the Council.

Brett called on Alex Hill, Field Representative for Congressman Rick Allen's Office to address the Council. Alex informed the Council that he would be leaving the Congressman's office to pursue a law degree. He introduced his replacement Kit Lowe and stated that he was available if anyone had any questions or needed assistance.

Executive Director Brett Manning reported to the Council the following:

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chair Mullis called on Brett Manning, Executive Director to call on individual counties for nominations to the 2019 Executive Committee. Brett informed the Council that the 2018 list was included in the Council packet. Below is the list of nominations of the counties represented at the Council meeting:

Appling – Theodore Wilkerson	Montgomery – Charlie Williams
Bleckley – Bob Brockman	Tattnall – Bernie Weaver
Candler – Chyrileen Kilcrease	Telfair – Annie Williams
Dodge – Spence Barron	Toombs – John Jones
Emanuel – Desse Davis, Chairman	Treutlen – Izell Stephens
Evans – Irene Burney	Wayne – James Thomas
Jeff Davis – James Benjamin	Wheeler – Keith McNeal
Johnson – Bill Lindsey	Wilcox – Michael Estes
Laurens – Jimmy Rogers	

Chair Mullis then called for a motion to accept the nominations. A motion was made by John Raymond Turner and seconded by Len Tanner. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Department of Human Services Transportation Program

The Council was provided information about the Department of Human Services Transportation program that is administered by the Regional Commission. The total trips for December, 2018 totaled 8,718. The total trips for the second quarter October - December was 29,649 for a year to date total for FY19 of 62,385. A copy of the trips was included in the Council’s packet of information.

3. Assistance to Firefighter Grant Award

Staff is currently working on 4 AFG grants. They projects were for:

Hazlehurst/Jeff Davis -\$173,629 Federal/\$8,682 Local Match for Turnout gear and SCBAs

City of Soperton - \$87,619 Federal/\$4,381 Local Match for SCBAs

City of Swainsboro - \$600,000 Federal/\$60,000 Local Match for Turnout Gear & SCBAs

Treutlen County - \$213,333 Federal/\$10,667 Local Match for SCBAs

4. Land and Water Conservation Fund(LWCF)

A recent LWCF application that was submitted by RC staff has been funded. The City of Vidalia received \$35,000 to replace damaged playground equipment at the Ed Smith Park. Kayla Johnson worked on this project for the City.

Just recently the City of Abbeville, Candler County, City of Twin City, and the City of Jesup were invited to participate in preparing a formal application to DNR for LWCFs after scoring well in the pre-application phase. Kayla also prepared the pre-applications for these projects and will be working with these local governments on the formal application.

5. Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs)Update

Staff is currently working on 10 CDBG applications ranging from water and sewer, streets and drainage, and building improvements. These will serve low income persons.

6. Comprehensive Plans for 2019

Planning Staff are beginning work on four comprehensive plans that are due for updates this year. They are Evans, Laurens, Toombs, and Wheeler counties. They will also be updating the Service Delivery Strategy for Toombs County and also updating Laurens County's Service Delivery Strategy and Solid Waste Plan.

Dates to remember:

Brett informed the Council on the following upcoming important dates:

The Regional Water Advisory Council will be meeting on January 31st at 10:00 a.m. in Vidalia at the Southeastern Tech Economic Development Center.

Wheeler County Joint Comprehensive Plan Local Plan Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting will be at the Wheeler County Service Center on January 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Evans County Joint Comprehensive Plan Local Plan Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting will be on February 7th at the Evans County Annex at 10:30 a.m.

The Workforce Board will be meeting at Chatters in Lyons on February 12th at 10:30 a.m.

Toombs County Joint Comprehensive Plan Local Plan Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting will be February 13th at 10:30 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Susan Evans, Telfair County, informed the Council that with the closing of the Husqvarna plant that the building was available to sell. She asked that if they knew of anyone interested to please let her know.

CLEO BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Chair Mullis called on Brett Manning, Executive Director, to inform the Council on the appointment needed. Brett stated that the CLEO Board had a vacancy that needed to be filled. He explained that each County Chairman serves on this Board and that if a new Chairman had been appointed they would be receiving notification that they are now on this Board. He stated that along with the Chairman's two Mayor's serve on this Board. Currently Mayor G.M. Joiner, Jr. serves as one of the appointments and due to the retirement of Mayor Billy Trapnell a replacement needed to be made. Brett informed them that Mayor Michael Estes had volunteered

for this appointment. He then asked if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were made. The motion to approve the appointment was made by Clay Reid and seconded by Dr. Esco Hall, Jr. The motion passed unanimously

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the Regional Council Meeting at 7:50 P.M. was accepted unanimously.