

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

FROM: MS. FAYE PERDUE, SECRETARY, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 25, 2016

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday August 25, 2016 at the Sharpsburg Town Hall in Sharpsburg, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Peter Banks advised the members that a quorum was reached, called the meeting to order and thanked the members for attending. He then asked Mr. Bennie Horton to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Banks led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Peter Banks, Mayor, City of Barnesville
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Ms. Beth Hadley, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Bobby Blalock, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Bobby Frazier, Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee
Dr. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Keith Douglas, Chairman, Butts County
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Chairman, Coweta County
Mr. Clayton Hicks, Council Member, City of Newnan
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. Steve Hudson, Commissioner, Upson County
Ms. Laurie Holmes, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Ms. Ginger Hancock, Mayor Pro Tem of Luthersville
Mr. Michael Brewer, Director of Government Relations, Butts County
Mr. Winston Skinner, Newnan Times Herald
Mr. Doug Westberry, City Manager, City of Manchester
Mr. James Ruvalcaba, Congressman Westmoreland's office

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Mr. Robert Hiatt, Governmental Services Division Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Senior Accounting Technician
Ms. Hope King, HR Generalist
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Banks introduced Ms. Hancock, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Westberry and Mr. Ruvalcaba and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held June 23 2016 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Raymond Ray to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Richard English and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Banks advised the members that the Griffin office (120 North Hill Street) was now owned by Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC). The building was purchased from the City of Griffin for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00). The chairman mentioned that the building does need some repairs and that Mr. Lanier Boatwright would report that information later in today's meeting.

DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. Ms. Brantley advised the members that the Regional Work Program plan was submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for their review and approval; DCA has approved the update. To complete the process, DCA is requesting that the council formally adopt the Regional Work Program Update. Ms. Brantley asked for the council's concurrence in adopting the update. Ms. Kay Pippin made the motion that the council approve the adoption of the Regional Work Program Update; it was seconded by Mr. Bobby Frazier and carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Plan Updates

Ms. Brantley also advised the members that letters were forwarded to the local governments to serve as reminders of the dates that their Comprehensive Plan Updates were due.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Revised Budget

Ms. Joy Shirley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised everyone that the Department of Human Services (DHS) made an error on the earlier budget that they forwarded to the various Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) throughout the state. After much discussion with legislators, the budget was restored; the Three Rivers AAA received \$104,000. The new budget will allow for 9,000 more meals to be served this year.

Teepa Snow Dementia Training

Ms. Shirley announced that Ms. Teepa Snow will be at Thomaston's Fine Arts Center on August 30, 2016 to present Dementia Training; this is an all day training event for the caregivers of dementia patients. Ms. Snow is a nationally renowned dementia care expert and the Aging staff is very excited to have her presentation in our area. Ms. Shirley commented that 850 people have registered and that there is a waiting list of fifty (50) individuals that they are trying to accommodate as well.

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Workforce Local Plan

Mr. Robert Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. The Workforce Board met earlier today and adopted the local plan. The staff has worked on the local plan during the summer and has received “a lot of good feedback on that plan.” The main feedback is along the lines of continuing to focus on building a strong set of skills that match the needs of the employers in the area. Ms. Kathy Knowles, Chairman of the Workforce Board, commented “if you really look at the data within the plan, you will see how interrelated all of the counties are, when you look at the commuting patterns...which is why we’ve had so many discussions around developing regionally and trying to do some more outreach in the communities...because my residents may be working in your county and your persons may be in mine. The data is phenomenal if you will take some time to look at the charts and things that are in it. It’s a very good plan and we’re going to need all of your help in implementing it.” Ms. Pippin commented “that I would suspect that it’s going to become a template for maybe other plans because it’s been done and we’ve gotten lots of kudos. To echo what Kathy said, I would make the pitch that when you see so many of our citizens, if not the majority...which is the case in my county, are leaving their (home) county to go someplace else to make a living. And most of those folks are going north toward Fulton and Atlanta. I always make the argument that we ought to be a little more sympathetic to Atlanta’s traffic patterns because it’s our people who are suffering from that congestion on a daily basis. The other thing that is interesting to me is the job sectors...the targeted job sectors in this region. Our county has been remiss in not understanding or not promoting all of these services that are available...” Mr. Hiett added that the members were emailed a copy of the draft plan and that a final version would also be forwarded to everyone.

Chief Elected Officials Meeting

Mr. Hiett mentioned that a Chief Elected Officials meeting is in the planning process at this time with a date sometime in October; the possible date is October 27th, between noon – 1:30 p.m. in Turin.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Rail Service

Mr. Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. He was asked by a council member about the possibility of rail service to Atlanta. The state has recently updated its rail plan and passenger service is being talked about more. Mr. Hiett explained that there is no dedicated source of money to help them operate a system; the funding would have to come from local areas, but that a federal funding would help the “astronomical” costs. Ms. Pippin, the new chairman of the Transportation Committee for Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), commented that “huge activity on behalf of Macon Mayor Robert Reichert with the Macon to Atlanta line and getting an organizational structure for that. The mayor of Columbus is also mounting a huge effort to see rail come in that direction. GMA and other groups are encouraging the governor to reactivate the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority (GRPA).” She did add that more interest was

along the Atlanta to Chattanooga corridor and the Atlanta to Greenville (along I-85) corridor and that didn't "bode well for us, but from the federal level, a lot of interest is in those two routes as well. It's alive and I think you are going to see it get kicked back up for more activity."

Transit Study Committee

Mr. Hiett recently provided testimony to a Transit Study Committee on August 15, 2016; the state has a House and a Senate transit committee. The committees are focused on metro Atlanta solutions and funding.

Transit Buses

Mr. Hiett stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) vehicle contractor has given them notice that they were terminating the state contract (FY17) and the commitments for FY16. Our area has four (4) vehicles on order at this time (one for Butts County; one for Meriwether County; and two for Upson County). The state's second bus vendor for the state will take over the contract and the orders; this will cause a delay in the delivery of our 2016 vehicles. Mr. Hiett is not certain of how long it will take before the buses are ready for delivery. He also mentioned that GDOT would submit several supplemental agreements that concern the FY16 order; he asked for the council's permission to authorize Chairman Banks and Mr. Boatwright to execute these contracts as soon as possible in order to avoid any further delay. Mr. Steve Stripling made the motion to authorize Chairman Banks and Mr. Boatwright to sign the modified contracts; it was seconded by Mr. English and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Proposed Policy Changes

Chairman Banks addressed the members concerning the proposed policy changes. He asked them to review the information and that there were no plans to discuss the proposals today. The proposed changes are expected to be discussed and voted on during the October meeting.

Mr. Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda. The proposed policy changes were given to the members and they were asked to review the items and that more information regarding travel, purchasing, etc. will be presented.

Purchasing Policy

There are no federal standards concerning purchases over a certain amount that would require a bid process. Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) currently has a \$10,000 limit on purchases, but we also compare prices on every purchase. At what point should we have sealed bids? TRRC does not purchase big ticket items, but does purchase services instead.

GARC Conference

The GARC Conference is set for November 2-4, 2016 at the King & Prince in St. Simons. TRRC will pay for the council members' registration if you would like to attend.

Building Renovations

Mr. Boatwright advised the members that the Griffin (120 North Hill Street location) office building is now owned by TRRC. This location needs significant repairs on the exterior (side wall is "bowing out"; sunlight has damaged the wood trim on the front of the building; etc.); while this work must be done, we still must adhere to historic preservation guidelines. Several contractors have visited the building, but only two (2) have actually submitted bids on the project. We have received a comprehensive bid (of \$38,000) from Pilkenton Development concerning the building renovations. Mr. Boatwright asked for the council's permission to contract with Pilkenton Development for the building renovations. Mr. Bobby Blalock made the motion that TRRC enter into the contract with Pilkenton Development; it was seconded by Mr. Bennie Horton and carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Boatwright mentioned that today's local product (salsa or barbecue sauce) was from Kenny's Sauces, located in Concord (Pike County). Kenny's Sauces can be purchased at Ingles or Kroger.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Pippin mentioned that while attending a Georgia Chamber event, everyone was told that the (filming of) James Bond movies would move to Fayetteville.

Mr. John Rainwater mentioned that United Bank is now in Meriwether County. United Bank recently acquired the assets from Woodbury Bank and Company.

Ms. Clair Jones mentioned that the City of Jenkinsburg and the Butts County Kiwanis Club will host a Zombie Fun Run on September 30th at 6:30 p.m. The event's proceeds will be used to fund the city's proposed park for special-needs children and adults.

The City of Woodbury is having a Zombie Geocache beginning on September 4th. Ms. Beth Hadley mentioned that they were having a "tremendous response from all over the United States." More details will be placed on the Meriwether County Chamber's website.

Mr. Doug Hollberg advised the members of the Zombierfest and Doc Holliday BBQ Festivals scheduled for the end of September; the location of the events will be the city of Griffin.

Mr. Boatwright and Mr. Hiatt have been invited to testify before the joint House Senate Committee meeting on Broadband Study; this meeting will be held on August 31, 2016.

Mr. Horton invited the members to a benefit that will be held for a Lamar County deputy. The deputy was diagnosed with cancer and the community has scheduled the event for Saturday, August 27, 2016

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Banks announced that the next meeting would be October 27, 2016. The meeting location will be the Sharpsburg Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting.



Faye Perduc, Secretary