

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD OCTOBER 23, 2014

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Hays Arnold called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Douglas Hollberg to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Arnold led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Roger McDaniel, Chairman, Butts County
Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Mr. Harvey Norris, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Peter Banks, Mayor, City of Barnesville
Ms. Nancy Jones, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Mike Beres, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. Bobby Frazier, Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Hays Arnold, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Mr. Steve Hudson, Commissioner, Upson County

Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Tommy Lee, Commissioner, Carroll County

Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Commissioner, Coweta County
Mr. Clayton Hicks, Council Member, City of Newnan
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Mr. James Bray, Mayor, City of Greenville
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee
Ms. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Mr. Winston Skinner, The Times-Herald newspaper in Newnan
Mr. Tavoires Edwards, Coweta County
Ms. Cheris English, guest of Mr. Richard English, Jr.
Mr. Sam Marchman, guest of Ms. Shirley Marchman

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Senior Accounting Tech
Mr. Robert Hiatt, Governmental Services Director
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director
Ms. Jan Edens, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Arnold introduced Mr. Skinner, Mr. Edwards, Ms. English, and Mr. Marchman and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held August 28, 2014 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Charles Jones to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Richard English, Jr. and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Arnold did not have anything to report under this portion of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE CEDS UPDATE

Mr. Lanier Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the council that Ms. Jeannie Brantley was unable to attend today's meeting since her father recently passed away. The Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) planning staff has worked on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update for the past year. During that time, the document has been forwarded to the council and they have been asked to review the information and provide comments or changes that need to be included in the document. An additional minor change has been brought to the attention of the planning staff and this adjustment will be included in the final edition of the CEDS before it is transmitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Ms. Nancy Jones made the motion that the council approve the CEDS resolution; it was seconded by Mr. English and carried unanimously.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Joy Shirley presented this portion of the agenda. The members were presented with a brochure, a copy which is attached hereto and by reference made a part of hereof, which explains the Georgia Council On Aging (GCOA) and the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) and the issues that these organizations are hoping to make priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Some of the issues are more funding to take approximately 5,000 people off of the waiting lists for aging services; fighting elder abuse; and the Family Care Act, which would allow workers with sick leave to use their accrued sick days (up to a maximum of 5) to care for a parent, spouse or child.

Ms. Shirley advised the members that the business plan is being prepared and will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Robert Hiatt presented this portion of the agenda.

State Audit Results

Mr. Hiatt informed the members that the state auditors had recently conducted a review of Workforce Development's financial records, files, etc., and that there were no significant findings. It was noted that the Workforce Board has several vacancies (for private sector representatives) and there are some issues obtaining a quorum for meetings. Mr. Hiatt explained that he has begun the process of contacting officials to have individuals appointed to fill the private sector vacancies (one each in Butts, Pike, Troup and Upson counties as well as three "at large" vacancies from Carroll, Coweta and Troup counties respectively). The board's ability to conduct business revolves around its capability to have a quorum for the meetings. Mr. Hiatt will contact the Workforce Board members about their attendance and their availability to continue to serve.

Office Relocation Update

Mr. Hiatt advised the council that the Workforce staff will be moving into the new facility (located at 1210 Greenbelt Drive in Griffin) during the week of November 3-7, 2014; the present building must be vacated by November 15th. The movers will be contacted next week with tentative moving plans being established at that time.

Lease Agreement with Southern Crescent Technical College

Mr. Hiatt stated that Workforce Development has a lease agreement with Southern Crescent Technical College for a facility in downtown Thomaston; that office will eventually need to move from the downtown area to the Southern Crescent campus. The agreement extends the current lease through the end of December and it was passed by the Workforce Board during their last meeting. After a review of the agreement, several members noted that there is an issue with some of the phrasing in the document, specifically \$12,000 for “annum” instead of \$12,000 for the six (6) month period. It was noted that the phrase was a typographical error that could be easily remedied. Mr. Hiatt has a previously scheduled meeting with Mr. Mark Andrews (of Southern Crescent Technical College) and this will be brought to his (Mr. Andrews’) attention at the meeting. Ms. Jones suggested to “strike annum and put per term of the contract (six months)” since the contract will expire at the end of December. Mr. Peter Banks made the motion that the contract be approved; Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. It was noted that the lease agreement would be corrected on Monday during Mr. Hiatt’s meeting with Mr. Andrews.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Hiatt presented this portion of the agenda.

Transportation Funding Committee

Mr. Hiatt attended a transportation panel meeting on September 30th where the committee noted that the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) was having a positive impact on the three (3) areas (Heart of Georgia Altamaha, River Valley and Central Savannah River Area) where it passed; projects are being completed and the communities are thriving. Areas where the TIA did not pass are asking for solutions to get needed projects funded. There is speculation that the T-SPLOST could be revived as well as a statewide tax being imposed. There is still a great deal of time left to have discussions about transportation funding; the actual recommendations are due in January, 2015.

Transit Capital Contract Authorization

Mr. Hiatt advised the members that five (5) Griffin-Spalding buses, one (1) Upson County bus and one (1) Pike County bus that are due to be replaced this year under the above referenced contract. He asked for the council’s authorization to execute the Transit Capital Contract. Mr. Hollberg made a motion to approve the contract; it was seconded by Mr. English and carried unanimously.

Transit Title VI Plan

The council was advised that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is requiring that all transit sub recipient programs sign this document (Transit Title VI Plan) which essentially states that we provide equal access to all individuals that utilize the transit system. Mr. Hiatt also advised the council that another focus of the document was limited English proficiency; there is not enough of a limited English proficiency barrier throughout the Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) area to warrant developing all transit materials in any additional languages. Mr. Mike Beres made the motion that the council endorses the Transit Title VI Plan; it was seconded by Mr. Banks and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda.

Discussion of Travel Policies

Mr. Boatwright advised the members that the two (2) sets of travel policies (one furnished by TRRC and the other by the State Department of Audits) were recently emailed to them so that they could review these items. The TRRC travel policy is brief, but it addresses all matters that are presented in the state travel policy edition. Mr. Boatwright mentioned that in the future that the council members would be asked to adopt the state travel policy. He asked the members to review both policies, note the differences and submit comments on the policies.

Discussion of "Whistleblower" Policy

The state Workforce office is requiring that the Workforce Development program needs to have a "whistleblower" policy in place. The Workforce board has indicated that they would like to recommend that the attached "whistleblower" policy, a copy which is attached hereto and by reference made a part of hereof, be adopted as a policy for TRRC. Mr. Steve Hudson made the motion that the "whistleblower" policy be adopted as a policy for TRRC; Mr. Jim Thornton seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Georgia Municipal Association Meeting

It was also mentioned that the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) district meeting is scheduled for October 30th; it will be held in Newnan.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Mike Beres mentioned that the City of Zebulon is planning a “steak out” event for April, 2015. An event site has not been determined as of yet; details concerning other festival events are also still in the planning stages. Judges from outside the local area will be recruited for the event and a local grocery store will provide the meat so that everyone will have the same opportunity to win the event.

Mr. Boatwright reminded the attendees of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) that reservations were in place for dinner on Thursday, November 6th.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2014. The meeting location will be the Turin Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Chairman Arnold reminded the members that the audit would be presented at the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Arnold adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. Norris.

Faye Perdue, Secretary