

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. CURTIS BROWN, JR., CHAIRMAN, PLANNING AND
PROJECTS COMMITTEE
THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee held a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via a Zoom video/conference call. Committee Chair Curtis Brown, Jr., welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. Mr. Wayne Livingston, Diverse Power EMC, volunteered and gave the invocation. Afterwards, Committee Chair Brown led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was taken and the following individuals attended:

Planning and Projects Committee Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County
Mr. Doug Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County

Additional Three Rivers Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Terry Nolan, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville

Guests in Attendance

Mr. Gary Bullock, City Manager, City of Bowdon
Mr. Wayne Livingston, Diverse Power EMC
Ms. Corinne Thornton, Office Director of Regional Community Services, Department of Community Affairs
Ms. Michelle Irizarry, Assistant County Manager, Spalding County
Ms. Lynne Miller, Community Development Director, City of Hogansville
Mr. James Emery, Director of Engineering and Development, Troup County

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Hope Blakely, HR Manager
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner

Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Deputy Workforce Development Director

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2020 meeting. Ms. Kay Pippin made the motion to approve the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Greg Wright. Committee Chair Brown called for the vote and was advised by Mr. Lee Boone that he was abstaining from the vote due to his not being present at the November 19, 2020 meeting. Mr. Terry Nolan asked about the findings from the DRI report that was mentioned in the November minutes. Mr. Kirk Fjelstul advised Mr. Nolan that the staff would send the report to him per his request. Again, Committee Chair Brown called for the vote and the motion did pass.

Mr. Fjelstul advised the committee that Ms. Kathy Knowles has raised an issue regarding the committee. Ms. Knowles was incorrectly identified as a member of the Planning and Projects Committee and she had made a few motions during a few meetings. There was one motion that she made concerning the CEDS update in February 2019. This motion was a recommendation and it was the council's ultimate decision to approve the CEDS update. The staff apologizes and will make a more diligent effort to monitor motions made during the committee's meetings. The committee did not comment or take any action, but instead moved forward with today's meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Doug Hollberg made the motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Ms. Pippin and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE (COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL) (action item)

Ms. Jan Perez presented this portion of the agenda. This information was presented to the committee during the November meeting. She advised that the proposed 2021 meeting schedule follows the same format as the 2020 schedule with the monthly committee meetings (on the 4th Thursday) and council meetings (on the 4th Thursday) every other month. If the proposed schedule is approved, the staff can post this data on the TRRC website and comply with the Open Meetings Act as well as making the schedule easily available to the public. The staff recommends the approval of the Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule. **FORMAL ACTION: Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion concerning this matter. Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule for the committees and council; it was seconded by Mr. Wright. Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.**

TRRC COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) UPDATE FOR 2020 (action item)

Ms. Kim Dutton presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the committee that the CEDS is updated on a yearly basis and that it is required for TRRC to serve as an eligible Economic Development District as designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). She gave a brief report on what items were updated for the CEDS for 2020. There was a brief question and answer period between the members and Ms. Dutton. **FORMAL ACTION: Committee Chair**

Brown asked for a motion regarding the TRRC CEDS Update for 2020. Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the TRRC CEDS Update for 2020; it was seconded by Mr. Boone. Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

Mr. Paul Jarrell introduced the presenter for this portion of the agenda. Mr. Wayne Livingston, Diverse Power EMC, presented an in-depth discussion concerning broadband. Several committee members had questions for Mr. Livingston, which he answered. He also shared his contact information in case anyone had additional questions for him. Committee Chair Brown, Mr. Jarrell and Mr. Fjelstul thanked him for his time and his presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Corrinne Thornton advised the committee that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has received Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) CARES Act funding. A virtual public hearing on how to use the funds will be held on December 17, 2020. Ms. Thornton advised that \$24 million will be released in the first round of funding. The general purpose of the grant program will be to help communities to provide broadband service in areas that are underserved (according to maps furnished by the State of Georgia and not those furnished by the Federal Communications Commission).

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Brown advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Brown adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. Hollberg and a second from Mr. Wright.

Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee