

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
January 13, 2016
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Thomas Ratcliffe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Invocation was provided by Mayor Ken Lee, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Coley, Reggie Loper, Donald Lovette, Jimmy Starline, Ken Lee, John Morrissey, Walter Gibson, Harold Fowler, Allen Brown, Tom Ratcliffe, Sean Register, Preston Dees, Priscilla D. Thomas, Pat Parker, Phil Phillips, Graylan Quarterman, Dan Coty, David Boland, Herb Jones, Shaw McVeigh, Kelly Spratt, Wyck Newberry, Chris Blaine, Ray Howard and Allen Amason.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Wilson, Craig Root, Jimmy Burnsed, Chap Bennett, Eddie DeLoach, Jan Moore, Dwight Gordon, Julie Martin, Hugh Hodge, Dale Provenzano, and Gwendolyn Davis.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: Nathaniel Thomas; Jeff Adams, St. Marys; Benjamin Stephaun, MAJ, Fort Stewart; Jack Garvin, Effingham Democratic Party; Jeff Ricketson and Nils Gustavson, LCPC; Patrick Graham, CHA; Stefanie Damien-Morrell, Hussey Gay & Bell; Jennifer Fordham, DCA; and Joe Parker, Jr., Freelance Reporter.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; Bill Compton, Senior Planner/Grant Specialist; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Ratcliffe called for any changes or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he called for a vote of approval.

Vote: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Non-Public Representative – Chairman Ratcliffe welcomed Mr. Allen Amason, Dean, College of Business, GSU to the Council as its newest member.

Approval of Disclosure of CRC Employee Business Transactions – *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* - Executive Director Burns stated this is a DCA requirement that has to be submitted each year and the attached form indicates that no staff had personal business transactions with local governments. A motion was made to approve the Disclosure of Business Transactions.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh

Second: Chris Blaine

Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Authorizing Resolutions to enter into Contract with DHS for 5316 & 5317 Applications – *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Donald J. Masisak, Transportation Director, explained we again have to have the Council's authorization for the Executive Director to execute contracts on behalf of the Council. A motion was made to approve the Authorizing Resolutions.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh

Second: Dr. Priscilla Thomas

Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

“America’s First Coast Guard Community” – Ms. Sheila McNeill, the Camden Partnership, and first female National President of the Navy League, explained how important advocacy is and the role she has played in advocating for sea services for the last 25 years. As a result, four nuclear submarines (with 20 years of remaining life) which were scheduled for dismantling, were saved and retrofitted for normal warfare and are in current use today. There is a Coast Guard command center in St. Marys, and most recently Camden County has been designated as “America’s First Coast Guard Community”. She stated you must have a passion for your project, research your subject, know your facts, devise a simple way to pitch the project, and have a good team of supporters.

New Rules for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) – *(See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Bill Compton, Senior Planner/Grant Specialist, explained the new DRI rules that became effective March 1, 2014. The new rules shorten the DRI timeline from 170 days to 30 days and changes the CRC’s role in the DRI process. Basically, the CRC is now just responsible for “checking the boxes” making sure notices are sent about the DRI to affected parties and not doing an analysis or providing an opinion as to if the project is in the best interest or not of the region and state. Each regional commission is encouraged to establish alternative DRI requirements tailored to meet the needs of their region. After discussing this with local governments that have current DRI’s and are being affected by this change, the planning department is recommending that the Council move toward establishing alternative DRI requirements. One such option is the local government’s getting the CRC involved with the developer before a DRI is submitted. After a brief discussion, it was decided that staff should develop an alternative and bring to the Council for approval.

Coastal Georgia Geospatial Consortium-Imagery Project – *(See Attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Hunter Key, GIS Manager, explained that an ortho imagery flight is being planned for January 2018. By starting on this early we can get a large collaborative group, get the dollar amounts needed on the budget radar screen, and build the consortium for state and federal players. The high resolution aerial images that combine the visual attributes of an aerial photograph with the spatial accuracy and reliability of a high accuracy horizontal map will help ensure high accuracy imagery for local cities and counties when editing their tax maps, 911 addressing, road centerlines, and building footprints. The CRC already has a MOU in place with NOAA, and our role is to encourage the region to participate in this project for a cost-savings as opposed to them trying to do their own individual project. So far, this has been pitched to the GIS Committee and we have “buy in” from Georgia DNR, Sapelo, and the Townsend Bombing Range. There was a brief discussion on this project. It was questioned if this would violate the private property rights of individuals or would notices be sent out to affected parties when it was scheduled to be done. Mr. Key stated that was a good question and he would pass it on because he did not know if it had been addressed. It is anticipated that the costs for this project should be available by late 2016 or early 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on CRC Leases – the **Darien facility:** (1) The City of Darien is leasing-to-own (14 years) the side building and gymnasium at a cost of \$4,000/month; (2) Transitions, LLC, has leased the call center pod, which is renewable each year, at a rate of \$12,000/month which includes utilities, computers, phones, etc.; (3) Coastal Reserve LLC has signed a six-month lease on our kitchen facility and storage area. We have started a low rent with them because they are having to make modifications to meet their needs. They currently pay \$2,000/month and have to pay their utilities and for their modifications. They have indicated they will want to renew and are aware that the rent will gradually increase. (3) McIntosh County Recreation Services has leased the back nine acres for six months for \$1 for sport practices. The **Brunswick facility:** (1) Palmetto Pipeline is

at the end of their one-year lease agreement and have notified us they want to extend the lease for six months. They pay \$7,366/month and are responsible for their utilities. The facility will be put on the market for sale when the economy improves.

DRI Reports: None to report.

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 5, 6, 7, and 8 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*
Aging Services currently has 1,800 on waiting list for services; transportation saw an increase of 784 trips from November to December. Everyone should have received an email with an updated finance report which shows we have a deficit in transportation of \$173,000; however, we think that amount will decrease. We are going to have to spend some money on vehicle maintenance, but we still intend to end the year with a balanced budget and be able to add to our reserve.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 9, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Emailed everyone the press release from Governor on Transportation investments for 18 months of projects. Looks like our region will get about \$145 million; if you look it up on their website, we are Region 5.
- The legislature is in session; they anticipate it to be a short one since it is an election year. In speaking with our House and Senate members, it appears there will be a Bill going forward to fund the State Geographic Information Officer (GIO) position at the state level.
- We sponsored an economic development training (Sidebar Conference) in Savannah on December 4th that was well attended; we will sponsor another one in 2016.
- The Environmental Scoping Session in Camden County went very well; the comment period has been extended until the 18th.
- GTA held their Annual Conference in December at the Jekyll Island Convention Center with approximately 250 attendees. Our Transportation Director Don Masisak received the Georgia Transit Operator of the Year Award.
- Commissioner Walter Gibson was reappointed by DCA to the State Building Authority Board.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**