

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
October 14, 2015
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tom Ratcliffe called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Invocation was provided by Mayor Ken Lee followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Thomas, Tom Ratcliffe, Walter Gibson, Allen Brown, Priscilla D. Thomas, Reggie Loper, Kelly Spratt, Jason Coley, Ken Lee, Dan Coty, David Boland, Jimmy Starline, Sean Register, Craig Root, Chris Blaine, Herb Jones, Julie Martin, Shaw McVeigh, and Graylan Quarterman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmy Burnsed, Charles Wilson, Dwight Gordon, John Morrissey, Margaret Evans, Edna Jackson, Pat Bazemore, Donald Lovette, Dale Provenzano, Chap Bennett, Hugh Hodge, Wyck Newberry, Harold Fowler, Jan Moore, J.C. Warren, and Gwendolyn Davis.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: Jack C. Garvin, Effingham; Elmer Stancil, State of Georgia; Jan Melcher, GA Quick Start; Phil Phillips, Garden City, GA; Col Townley Hedrick, Garrison Commander, Fort Stewart; Bertha Gibbon, Chatham; Patrick Graham and King Evans, CHA; Ben Taylor, Bryan County; D. Smith, DABC; Jennifer Fordham, DCA; Wally Orrel, MCIDA; Dustin Peebles, Pembroke; Clay Mobley, Georgia Conservancy; Eric Landon, Camden County; Benjy Thompson, Coastal GA Water Council; Paul Teague, Atlanta Gas Light; Robert Cheshire, City of Statesboro; Stephanie Dammen Morrell, Hussey, Gay & Bell; Sabrina F. Reed, Liberty Co. Development Authority; Colleen Barrett, Townsend Bombing Range; Sandra Rayson, Woodbine; Congressman Buddy Carter; Commissioner Chris Carr; and Joe Parker, Jr., Reporter.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Donald Masisak, Transportation Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Russell Oliver, Senior Planner, II; Bill Compton and Meizi Wolven, Grant Specialists; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Ratcliffe requested approval of the minutes from the September 9th meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Walter Gibson
Second: Commissioner Reggie Loper
Vote: Unanimous

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Approval of Authorizing Resolution for FY17 5311 GDOT Grant Application – *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Executive Director Burns stated this is required every year in order for him to be allowed to submit the 5311 Application to GDOT. A motion was made to approve the Resolution as presented.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Commissioner Priscilla D. Thomas
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

Congressman Buddy Carter stated that it was an honor to serve the district in which he was born and raised. Congressman Carter then provided an update of legislative happenings. They have a vacancy for Speaker in

light of John Bayner's resignation effective October 30th. The speaker does not have to be a member of Congress, but all eyes are on Paul Ryan. The legislative year started off good with them passing the budget on the first try since 2009; it is not balanced, but it is a road map that if followed will eventually pay off the national debt. A Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) was established, which asserts Congress' role and brings transparency and accountability to international trade agreements and requires a 60-day review period of the agreement for the public consideration and a 90 day review by Congress. The Highway Trust Fund is good through the end of October; committee is currently working to get a six-year long-term bill so states will know that they have reliable funding. Updated FEMA flood maps are being released and counties are being pleasantly surprised. December 11th is the next deadline before a government shutdown and the debt limit will need to be raised. A brief Q & A session followed.

Mr. Ron Elliott, Public Affairs, Fort Stewart introduced Colonel Townley Hedrick as their new Garrison Commander. Colonel Hedrick stated he was glad to be in Coastal Georgia and thanked everyone for their support of Fort Stewart.

Commissioner Chris Carr, Georgia Department of Economic Development – Commissioner Carr stated that Governor Deal tasked the Department with creating jobs and investment in Georgia through business recruitment and expansion, international trade and tourism, as well as the arts, film and music industries. The Department works with the private sector to determine what their needs are for them to be successful – i.e., a trained reliable work force. Georgia is the 11th largest exporting state with top exports to Europe. The Department has 12 offices around the world. On December 14th at Savannah Tech there will be a listening session. Commissioner Carr stated that everyone in the room has a vision for their community and that his Department wants to work with them. Georgia offers a great business environment, a great place to live, is a low tax state and has a talented work force. A brief Q & A session followed.

OTHER BUSINESS

DRI Reports: None to report this month.

Project Status Reports - (*See Attachments 2, 3, 4, and 5, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.*) In regards to status reports – Aging services will hold public hearings in November & December as part of their process in developing the new Area Plan Goals and objectives for the upcoming four-year planning cycle; please attend if you can. The HDM waiting list is at 308; the golf tournament in November will benefit this program; hope to raise more than the \$6,000 we did last year. ESPN Radio will be doing a live remote during the tournament. Transportation – staff has been assisting with the GTA Annual Conference that will be held December 2-4 on Jekyll Island; expected 250-300 attendees. Trips are averaging 10,000/month. Finance – running a slight deficit in transportation of \$43,000; this is due to the fact that DHS has changed how trips are to be ordered and Gateway and Pineland has had a decrease in trips, but we think that will pick back up.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. (*See Attachment 6, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.*)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- I have been appointed Chairman of the Spaceport Steering Committee. A subcommittee is being established to focus on the environmental aspects of the project. Steve Howard would like to come to the November meeting to provide an update.
- Working with Long and McIntosh Counties on their 911 Inter-governmental Agreement to work out some issues – they have a joint call center located in McIntosh.

- Bulloch County opened their beautiful new annex facility last month.
- Working on an additional lease for another wing of our Darien facility. Also, working with the McIntosh County Recreation Department to lease our ballfields, if we can work out the insurance details.
- Bryan County voted last night to turn over their transit program to the CRC; this will save them money and make us more efficient. We did not assume any liability with this, they already ran our buses, they employed the drivers, and now our TPO will take over those drivers.
- CRC Employees received their flu shot earlier this month.
- An Economic Development Committee has been formed, but has not met. The Transportation Committee met this morning and their discussion centered on economic development with the port expansion.
- Continue to work with McIntosh and Long Counties on the Townsend Bombing Range.

Report from Transportation Committee: Chairman Shaw McVeigh reported they have established a mission statement and goals. They are recommending that we invite DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry to attend one of our council meetings to improve our communications and let him know what the Committee wants to accomplish. Council agreed to extend an invitation to Commissioner McMurry.

Mr. Ron Elliott stated there would be a Soldier for Life Program on October 22nd at 1:30 p.m. at Fort Stewart. Fort Stewart HBI student soldiers will be building 75 sf. shelters for homeless vets in Chatham County.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.** since our normal meeting date falls on the Veteran's Day holiday.