

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
September 14, 2016
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Ratcliffe, Jimmy Burnsed, David Stevens, Shaw McVeigh, Ken Lee, Walter Gibson, Donald Lovette, Jason Coley, David Boland, Allen Brown, Dan Coty, Graylan Quarterman, Preston Dees, Julian Miller, Hugh Hodge, Charles Frasier, Jordy Evans, Allen Amason, Craig Root, and Jan Moore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Register, Jimmy Starline, Reggie Loper, Phil Phillips, Dwight Gordon, Priscilla D. Thomas, Chap Bennett, Herb Jones, Harold Fowler, Ray Howard, Rosa Romeo, Julie Martin, Chris Blaine, Dale Provenzano, John Morrissey, and Gwendolyn Davis.

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

GUESTS: Brett Manning and Scott Jackson, Heart of Georgia RC; Susan Miller, Geospatial Info. Officer; Natalie Lee, Harold Linnenkohl, and Sean Roche, Michael Baker International; Craig Barrs, Rich McDowell, and Cathy Hill, Georgia Power; Paul Speich, Kingsland; Angie Eaton, Eric Landon, and Jim Potter, Camden Co.; Wincy Poon and Dustin Minchew, Hinesville; Colonel Buck, Troy Ward, James Landis, and Colleen Barrett, MCAS Beaufort; Jo Hickson, Coastal Ga Greenway; Shannon Hill, Kelly Barnard, and Nancy Akins, Bulloch Co.; Tom Wahl, LcPSC; Jeff Ricketson, Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission; Michelle Grembowski and Robert O'Neill, Middle Georgia RC; Jay Johnson and Scott Wall, Liberty Co.; Quint Moore and Randi Thomas, Bryan Co.; Paul Teague, Atlanta Gas Light; Debra Nesbitt, ACCG; Ron Tolley, Liberty Co. Development Authority; Nick Helmholdt, MPC-Savannah/Chatham; and John Bennett, Savannah Bicycle Campaign.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; Bill Compton, Senior Planner/Grant Specialist; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Beth Kersey, Fiscal Assistant II; and Colletta S. Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 10th meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Walter Gibson
Second: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL of APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL: *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Chairman Ratcliffe referred members to the blue handout. A motion was made to approve the appointments to the Committees of the Council as listed.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF COASTAL GREENWAY PROJECTS: Executive Director Burns stated that the state legislature had allocated \$100,000 to the East Coast Greenway and after several meetings with the delegation it was decided that the money should go into construction projects. Six proposals were received: (1) Chatham County/Cane Brake Trail; (2) Tybee Island/causeway project; (3) City of Brunswick/portion of Hwy. 17; (4) City of St. Marys/Trail Head and Bathroom Facility; (5) Jekyll Island Authority/portion of causeway to tie into 17; and (6) McIntosh County/99 Highlander Trail. All are good projects, and my recommendation is that we

give \$17,800 to each entity that has shovel ready projects and \$3,000 to McIntosh County to update the engineering. The CRC will retain \$8,000 for administration of the project. Executive Director Burns provided a brief summary of each project and apologized that he did not have anything in writing; however, the last proposal came in at 5:00 p.m. on Monday and he finished going over them early this morning. The matching investment for the \$92,000 is \$2.4 million. Ms. Jo Hickson, Executive Director, Coastal Georgia Greenway, Inc., commented that they supported all these projects and encouraged Council approval; she stated this is the first time the Greenway has ever been allocated money and they hope to receive a million next year. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the proposals and funding amounts as recommended by the Executive Director.

Motion: Craig Root
Second: David Boland
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF REAL ESTATE FIRM TO LIST BRUNSWICK FACILITY: Executive Director Burns explained that our 10,800 sf. Brunswick facility was leased during the time our contract with our realtor ended. We reached out to the two realtors who had given bids before, and the second declined, leaving the realtor who was previously used. The Officers and I met before this meeting, and are recommending that we enter into another agreement with Don Wright & Associates to list the property for lease. A discussion ensued about the selling or leasing of the property. The previous lease price was \$8.50 sf., which was higher than the market. It was felt that the market has not recovered enough to get the price that the building is actually worth; realtors indicate we would be lucky to get \$350,000. A motion was made for the Executive Director to work with Don Wright and Associates on a new contract and bring back to Council.

Motion: Mayor Allen Brown
Second: Commissioner Walter Gibson
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort (MCASB) – Colonel Peter D. Buck, Commanding Officer of MCASB, provided a PowerPoint overview of their installation, which encompasses a little over 7,000 acres. The Corps is transitioning from the F-18 to the F-35, which will be the lead aircraft that will take them through the next 50 years. The FY-18s will continue to fly through 2026. They are also in a partnership with the United Kingdom, where MCASB is training their pilots while the UK is building their hangars; when their hangars are completed, the pilots will be trained and ready to begin their missions.

They are looking to expand the Townsend Bombing Range to 33,813 acres, which will allow them to more efficiently meet training requirements by significantly increasing the air-to-ground training capabilities on the east coast. Presently, squadrons must use west coast training ranges to satisfy training requirements. 2019 is the anticipated time for the acquisition process to be completed and the Range to be ready for operation. He noted that it is inert weapons, not live munitions, that are used and hopes that everyone will take away the concept of how important this expansion is and what it will mean for training on the east coast.

Merger of Southern Company and Atlanta Gas Light (AGL): Craig Barrs, Executive Vice President, Customer Service and Operations, Georgia Power stated that effective June 30, 2016 Georgia Power and AGL merged and are now under one umbrella of the Southern Company. AGL is now known as Southern Company Gas. Southern Company now has 11 electric and natural gas utilities and is the second-largest utility company in the U.S. in terms of customer base and has nearly 200,000 miles of distribution lines and more than 80,000 miles of natural gas pipelines. Also, Southern Company and Kinder Morgan, Inc., have a natural gas pipeline

venture through Southern Company's acquisition of a 50 percent equity interest in the Southern Natural Gas (SNG) pipeline system. Kinder Morgan will continue to operate the system. Investments are constantly made in infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The closing of customer service centers was a result of cutting costs so they could keep rates flat; customer behaviors has enabled this to happen as only 8% of overall payments are brought into an office. Those who like to hand-deliver their payments will still be able to do so via local businesses, i.e., pharmacies, Dollar General, Walmart, etc.

NextGen911 (NG9-1-1-1):— *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Natalie Lee, GIS Specialist, Michael Baker International, and member of the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee, provided a PowerPoint overview of NextGen911. NG9-1-1 is an Internet Protocol (IP) based system that will allow digital information (e.g., voice, photos, videos, text messages) to flow seamlessly from the public, through the 911 network, and on to emergency responders. Currently, the phone company is responsible for the routing process through location databases, which are not spatial; this system is underutilized and expensive to manage (most individuals don't have landlines anymore). In 2020, your GIS data will be responsible for routing the calls. This is not an unfunded mandate, and grants to implement the new system are coming; it is very important to have your plans in place so you will be ready to go when funding is received. She encouraged everyone to begin frank conversations with GIS and 911 stakeholders, cleanup up old and create new databases, maintenance workflows needed, integrate GIS support with emergency communications, collaborate with neighbors, learn more, and facilitate your GIS staff learning more. URISA Pre-Conference two half-day workshops on this subject will be held on October 3, 2016.

The Miracle: Beth Kersey, Fiscal Assistant II, thanked everyone for their prayers, cards, and support during her recovery period from her near fatal automobile accident on January 13, 2015. Ms. Kersey showed photos of her vehicle and of herself in the hospital after the accident. Ms. Kersey stated that even though she lost an arm, has had multiple surgeries, and a few more to go, it is by the Grace of God that she can still do the same things that she did before the accident. Ms. Kersey received a round of applause and standing ovation for her return to the CRC.

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 3, 4, 5, and 6 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*
If there are any questions, see staff after the meeting.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 7, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Attended a meeting of the House Science and Technology Commercial Space Subcommittee yesterday.
- Our audit is underway; preliminary reports are that it looks good. It is scheduled to be completed and presented to the Council at the November meeting.
- Our Aging Services Director Dionne Lovett has been requested to shadow the existing treasurer of the SE4A. Since our agency had a problem with an employee who served as treasurer of another committee, a policy was put in place that no employee could serve as Treasurer of any organization or committee without the prior approval of the CRC's Executive Director and Council. There was a brief discussion on the

matter. Burns noted that allowing this gives us more recognition throughout the country; Dionne recently served as the G4A President and that helped us get additional funding. Executive Burns recommended that she be allowed to shadow the existing treasurer to determine if it would be a good fit; if after the year, we determine that it is, we will bring back a recommendation to the Council. A motion was made to allow the Aging Services Director to shadow the SE4A Treasurer.

Motion: Graylan Quarterman

Second: David Boland

Vote: Unanimous

Shaw McVeigh commented on the transportation report and noted the good job done by staff. The Transportation Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. before the regular Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**