

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
February 12, 2020
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allen Brown called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Invocation was provided by Richard Hayes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jason Coley.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allen Brown, Dan Coty, Steven Asplund, Herb Jones, Rosa Romeo, Tom Ratcliffe, Craig Root, Shirley Frasier, David Boland, Shaw McVeigh, Julie Martin, Michael Browning, Chester Ellis, Richard Hayes, Walter Gibson, John Morrissey, Jonathan McCollar, Mary Hamilton, Hugh Hodge, Jordy Evans, Chris Blaine, Bill Watson, and Jason Coley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Lee, Dr. Priscilla Thomas, Reggie Loper, Carter Infinger, Allen Amason, Preston Dees, Donald Lovette, Rick Freeman, Lannie Brant, Ray Howard, Chap Bennett, Van Johnson, II, and Robert Parker.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Fletcher, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: Margaret and Osal Evans, Screven County; Jeff Ricketson, LCPC; Jennifer Fordham, DCA; and Charissee Lee, Eckerd Connects

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Eric Landon, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Tayler Hames, Grant Specialist/Planner; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Donald Masisak, Transportation Director/Interim WorkSource; Sheron Morgan, Assistant WorkSource Director; Crystal Nortchutt, Finance Administrator; Hunter Key, GIS/IT Director; Megan Hunnicutt, GIS Manager; Ethan Shafer, IT Analyst; Andrew Stokolos, IT Intern; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director/HR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Mayor Hugh "Bubba" Hodge
Second: Commissioner Rosa Romeo
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of DHS Authorizing Resolution- *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes)* A motion was made to approve the Resolution as presented.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Commissioner Chester Ellis
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Area Plan Update - *(See Attachments 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes)* – Ms. Dionne Lovett provided a PowerPoint overview of the mission and purpose of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the purpose of the Area Plan, and the goals for FY21. The Aging program runs on a four-year cycle; FY2021-2024 begins July 1, 2020 and the goals will be updated annually for the next three years. Ms. Lovett explained the proposed community and in-home services. She referred members to the handout that list the goals and objectives that had been developed by the Georgia DHS/DAS. A population projection sheet and a sheet depicting the number of unduplicated clients served and the number of units served was also provided to membership. The FY21 budget is \$5,246,968, which includes Federal, State, and local matching funds. This amount could change if the Governor's budget does not include the earlier requested decrease by departments. Ms. Lovett stated that the Aging Services Advisory Council met in January and approved the Area Plan for FY2021-2024 and the Goals and was recommending it for approval by the CRC Council. A motion was made to approve the Area Agency on Aging Area Plan for FY2021-2024 and the Goals for FY21.

Motion: Commissioner Chester Ellis
Second: Commissioner Walter Gibson
Vote: Unanimous

Communities of Faith Update – Mr. Eric Landon, Planning & Government Services Director, stated that before he provided the update, he wanted everyone to know that he was trying to meet with all 45 of our communities in order to build relationships. The CRC is required to notify our communities when their comprehensive plans are due; some want our assistance, and some don't. Regarding Communities of Faith, USDA is organizing their efforts and are talking with state and federal VA reps. They have requested that we provide them with examples of resources and projects that are being done locally to address the problems we've identified. They are also looking at spiritual health, suicide prevention, housing, etc., so please let us know of projects that you have in your community. We also want to do quick interviews/videos of success stories/testimonies that we can give to them to show results. Jordy Evans commented that his wife runs an afterschool program in McIntosh County, and after the meeting with USDA, he told her about some of their programs. She contacted them and they are now providing funds to cover the food costs she was incurring, and she can now use that money to serve other children. USDA will pull together new programs that the feds provide and will leverage resources with assistance – they are not just going to show up with a truckload of money. It was recommended that an email be sent to all the Communities of Faith Committees and to the Council members, to request a list of the projects/programs that are already in each city/county. It was also suggested that the CRC Communities of Faith Committee meet again to begin thinking about next projects in order to keep the momentum going.

Update on WorkSource – (See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes) Mr. Donald Masisak, Transportation Director/Interim WorkSource Director, provided a PowerPoint overview of the LEO Bylaws. The CRC, the Local Elected Officials Board (LEO), and the Coastal Workforce Development Board (CWDB) all have critical roles in the successful operation of the WorkSource Program. He then explained some of the roles/responsibilities of each group. He stated that he and Allen will be going to all the county offices to meet staff and assess the program's operations. It was noted that it is important for the CRC to get a good footing with this program and make sure that it serves the entire region. There was a question about youth employment and Ms. Sheron Morgan, Assistant WorkSource Director, responded there are 14 ways to use funding for this and there are contractors in every county. Mr. Masisak stated that any council members who want to attend the county meetings with him and Allen were welcome to do so to obtain better partnerships.

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Status Reports - (See Attachments 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) No questions were raised.

Mr. Shaw McVeigh reported that, on behalf of the CRC, he had attended the GDOT's Georgia State Rail Plan Stakeholder Meeting on January 30th, and it was a very good meeting.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Planning - The Comp Plan due date for Liberty County is October 31, 2020. Chatham County's is due next year. Finance – we are in good shape right now, slight deficit in transit.

GDOT Board Member Ann Purcell was attending another meeting at the Center and dropped by to tell everyone hello and remind them if they needed anything to give her a call. She also introduced Rob McCall, District 5 Engineer, located in the Jesup office.

- Bryan County threw us out of our normal meeting room, but we should be back in our normal space next month. Lunch will be in the dining room.
- The Garrison Commander for Fort Stewart was supposed to be with us this month, but he has had to reschedule and will be attending at a later date.
- HB511 has undergone a massive underwrite that was just rolled out last week. Still not sure about it all, but it looks like instead of a separate agency, it will all fall under GDOT as a division of intermodal transit.
- GDOT conducted their audit last week; there are a couple of minor findings – basically codifying policies to reflect what we are doing, and they want us to work on the indirect rate, which Lena is working on today.
- Finishing up my annual meetings with council members; if we haven't met and you want to get together, please let me know.
- Spoke to the Screven Rotary last month; Peggy Luukkonen spoke to the United Methodist Church in Brunswick about our Tools for Life Lab. Please let us know if you need a speaker.

Hunter Key, GIS/IT Director, reported there is some IT troubleshooting that must be done and that the full transition from Savannah to the CRC will stretch out to July. All the phone lines were not transferred, WIFI had to be swapped, and emails done. The CRC is migrating from internal SharePoint to ICLOUD and they couldn't do that in time before the switch over, so that had to install the current version that the CRC is using. Ethan Shafer was recognized for his good work. Currently looking at coordinating subscriptions and printer maintenance agreements. May-June will be switching over all licensing agreements from Savannah to the CRC.

- DCA hosted a meeting regarding the Census at the CRC office; the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for a good count. In March they will mail out cards (Hunter's staff assisted with getting correct addresses) you can enter your information online; if they don't get a response from you, they will send out three letters, if no response, then they will start with the home visits. So, if you don't want them to come to your house, respond to their card or letters. Next count will be in 10 years.
- Aging had their mid-year review with the State, and they received high marks.
- Bridge Run is this weekend. Daylight savings time is March 8th.
- As a reminder, a former contractor filed a lawsuit against us for lost revenue (they did not receive funds due to a GDOT audit). Our insurance company has advised they will cover damages up to \$1 million and reserve the right to settle. Our attorneys filed a Motion to dismiss; their attorney sent a request for mitigation; our attorney declined mitigation and stated we had filed a motion to dismiss. Will keep you posted.
- Nothing has been dropped regarding legislation that would reduce the board size for regional commissions. It's getting late in the year, so hopefully it won't. Under the new proposed structure, keep 10 county

positions, 10 municipality, and reduce private sector to five (we currently have 14), and there is no mention of state appointments. The GARC met in January and agreed with it, over my objections. They think it could get worse and they would rather have just one change, so the Chair of our Association sent a letter confirming their position. I strongly disagree, but I can't lobby. The last time there was a change, HB1216, four regional commissions were eliminated, and they added more public participation. Will keep everyone informed.

- There is legislation that could move WorkSource back to the Georgia Department of Labor and we are keeping an eye on it.
- Glad to have former Mayor Margaret Evans in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**