

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
October 9, 2019
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 Herb Jones, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jason Coley.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allen Brown, Ken Lee, Craig Root, Preston Dees, Julie Martin, Sean Register, Reggie Loper, Herb Jones, Michael Browning, Carter Infinger, Tom Ratcliffe, Shirley Frasier, David Boland, Lannie Brant, Donald Lovette, Jason Coley, Brian Foster, Chester Ellis, Shaw McVeigh, Rick Freeman, Chris Blaine, Richard Hayes, Bill Watson, Walter Gibson, Mary Hamilton, and Rosa Romeo.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Coty, Ray Howard, Jordy Evans, Dr. Priscilla Thomas, Hugh Hodge, Allen Amason, Jonathan McCollar, Chap Bennett, Robert Parker, and John Morrissey.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Chris Fletcher, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: David Rainer, Camden County/NASA; Charles McMillan, GA Conservancy; James Small, MPC; and Joe Parker, Jr., Freelance Reporter.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; Eric Landon, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director/HR.

CRC Employee Recognition: Executive Director Burns presented a plaque of appreciation to Lena Geiger, Finance Director, for her 15 years of service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 11th meeting.

Motion: Chairman Carter Infinger
Second: Chris Blaine
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL of AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION for the 2020 5311 APPLICATION: *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Don Masisak, Transportation Director, explained this is the yearly authorization to apply for 5311 funds. A motion was made to approve the Resolution as presented.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Commissioner Reggie Loper
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL of UPDATE TO CRC HANDBOOK: *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Executive Director Burns referred members to the salmon handout and reminded everyone of the discussion at the last meeting and that action had been tabled until this meeting. He explained that staff had looked at different policies of our cities and counties and focused on Glynn County's model, and is recommending that a new section "Emergency Leave" be added to the Employee Handbook. This will allow employees to take PTO or LWOP in the event of a voluntary or mandatory evacuation in any part of the CRC Region. It will also allow for emergency pay at time and a half for drivers who volunteer to do evacuations per our contract with GEMA (while they are doing the evacuations). Exempt employees having to assist in

managing the evacuation will receive no additional pay. A motion was made to approve the update as presented.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Chris Blaine
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATION

NASA and Spaceport – *(See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. David Rainer, NASA Safety and Mission Assurance Division Chief, International Space Station Ground Processing, Kennedy Space Center, provided a handout highlighting how technologies developed by NASA benefit us. An enlightening PowerPoint presentation also showed the benefits. In the beginning NASA had approximately 4% of the federal budget and now only has approximately ½%. NASA focuses on beyond earth, and Mars has always been their long term goal; they want others to focus on low-orbit launches. In 2011, Kennedy Space Center was Space Shuttle Centric; now in 2019, it is a multi-user spaceport with vendors such as Boeing, Blue Origin, Lockheed, OneWeb, and SpaceX, to name a few. There was such a demand for low-orbit launches that it has gotten crowded and some of them have pulled out and moved to Virginia. A majority of the Kennedy Space Center property is a habitat for wildlife; which if NASA didn't own the property, it would probably be full of condos. Spaceport Camden is an excellent opportunity for Georgia. He stressed that a spaceport will not destroy Cumberland Island. Another benefit of the Spaceport is that it would have loose ties to the federal government – which means no shutdown. He stated that “People don't know what they don't know.” If they understood the benefit of these low-orbit launches and what it means, they wouldn't be in opposition.

Spaceport Update: Mr. Steve Howard, Camden County Administrator, stated that December 16, 2019 is the date we will know if Camden is a “go” or “no go” for launches. He stated this is a big opportunity for us to have a great asset here on Georgia's coast. He also stated that Dr. George Nield, Former Associate Administration for Commercial Space, Transportation, FAA, has expressed his support and stated that ...”the State of Georgia should be extremely proud of the significant achievement by Camden County in obtaining complete enough status form the FAA. If approved, Spaceport Camden's launch site operator's license will represent a significant catalyst both for economic development, and for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)...”

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.

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

- Aging services received a 4% cut this year, and it is anticipated there will be an additional 6% cut next year.
- Financial Report - everything is in line with our budget and we are on target.

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- The House Development Rural Council will be meeting at the college campus in Woodbine on October 29-30. Don Masisak has been asked to sit on a transportation panel discussing HB511. Representative Kevin Tanner will be the moderator. We will send out additional information.
- WorkSource met prior to our meeting and finally had a quorum and was able to change their Bylaws to bring them into compliance. Three months until the turnover of the program and we've been working hard.
- November 21st, 9-4 here at the City Center is the Communities of Faith Meeting with Mike Beatty. He was in Savannah a couple of weeks ago and I met with him; he is excited about this first regional effort in the country.
- Last Tuesday our Chairman spoke to the Long County Chamber about the CRC and did a great job.
- We had the health department at our office yesterday giving our employees flu shots; it is paid through our insurance.
- Monday is Columbus Day and the CRC will be closed; the buses will be operating.
- Notified that we will be receiving a NADO award; Russell Oliver our Senior Planner submitted a photo and it won an award. Will bring him and the photo to a future meeting.
- DCA is holding a meeting on the hurricane funding from HUD at our office today for the areas of Albany, Brunswick, and Kingsland.
- Our former TPO, Transitions, has obtained an attorney and has given us warning. We are talking with GDOT, our attorney, and insurance company – will have more detailed discussion next month.
- Will be taking tomorrow off and a few more days coming up, since Lena tells me that I'm about to be losing leave.

Jason Coley asked if there were any issues with current WorkSource employees. Burns stated we've had a couple of meetings with them to go over benefits and provided them with open enrollment information so they can go ahead and sign up for insurance, before they become our employees, so they don't have a gap in coverage. Two of their employees are eligible for retirement and they may retire from Savannah, and then become CRC employees. We've not had any indication that they don't want to join the CRC; if you hear otherwise, let me know. We've also met with their Board and Chairman. Our staff has been assessing their leases and inventorying their equipment. Spoke with the Executive Director of the Technical College and they are pleased with what is going on during the transition.

Walter Gibson announced that the Sunbelt Expo will be in Moultrie next week.

- **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, November 13, 2019, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**