

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

FROM: MS. FAYE PERDUE, SECRETARY, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 22, 2024

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:04 p.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at the Little Hawaiian Event Center, 809 Cedar Street, Carrollton, Georgia.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Curtis Brown, Jr. welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Mr. Lee Boone gave the invocation and afterwards, Chairman Brown, Jr. led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was taken, and the following individuals attended:

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Terry Nolan, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Ms. Michelle Morgan, Chair, Carroll County
Mr. Kevin Hemphill, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Cecil McDaniel, Council Member, City of Barnesville
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Ms. Josephine Mahone-Stargell, Mayor, City of Greenville
Ms. Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Doug Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin
Mr. David Johnson, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Nathan Gaskin, Council Member, City of LaGrange
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Ms. Adrienne Shales, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Ken Rivers, Commissioner, Butts County
Mr. Carlos Duffey, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Mr. John Reidelbach, Chair, Coweta County
Mr. Dustin Koritko, Council Member (Mayor Pro Tem), City of Newnan

Ms. Leigh Ann Green, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Mr. Jason Lovett, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Gene King, Chair, Meriwether County
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chair, Pike County
Mr. Joe Walter, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Ric Calhoun, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Dr. Jimmy McCamey, Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Norman Allen, Chair, Upson County
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Vacant, Governor's Appointees
Vacant, Speaker's Appointee

Guests in Attendance

Ms. Diana DeSanto, Deputy City Manager, City of Villa Rica
Ms. Laura Gower, Field Director, Rep. Drew Ferguson's office
Mr. Luke Hetland, North Georgia Field Director, Office of Lt. Governor Burt Jones
Mr. Leonard Sewell, Mayor of Luthersville and guest of Ms. Josephine Mahone-Stargell
Ms. Corinne Thornton, Office Director of Regional Community Services, DCA

Staff Present

Mr. Mark Butler, Executive Director
Ms. Kim Bennett, Finance Director
Ms. Mandy Nicholson, HR Director
Ms. Tara Grdinich, Community Affairs Director
Ms. Kelli Weaver, Communications Director
Ms. Jan Perez, Executive Administrator
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director
Ms. Emily Rogers, Deputy AAA Director
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Interim Planning Director
Ms. Stephanie Wagner, Planner
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Interim Transit Director
Ms. Kymberleigh Kildani, Transit Mobility Manager
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Workforce Development Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Brown, Jr. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **FORMAL ACTION: Mr. Terry Nolan made the motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Mr. David Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2024 (action item)

Chairman Brown, Jr. asked for a motion to approve the June 27, 2024 meeting minutes. **FORMAL ACTION: Mr. Doug Hollberg made the motion to approve the June 27, 2024 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. John Rainwater and the motion carried unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Brown, Jr. advised the members that he wanted to forgo his report since he did not have a formal report. He took a moment to recognize the staff and visitors who participated in today's sessions and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mark Butler thanked the staff that organized the retreat and expressed hope that the attending council members have enjoyed the various activities and presentations. He asked the members to provide feedback (good or bad) about the retreat and whether they would like to have this event on an annual basis. He asked for feedback on the department presentations that were provided to the members earlier today since these would be shared with the public at different functions. He commented on the Revised FY'24 Budget (that was presented shortly after his report) and advised that the departments' directors did show some savings in several areas. He advised that last year's budget was "better than we thought." Mr. Butler also expressed his thanks to the Little Hawaiian Event Center staff for the great job that they did. This prompted a round of applause from the members. He finished by thanking the members for coming to his hometown.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S JUNE 2024 AND JULY 2024 EXPENDITURES (action item)

Ms. Jan Perez presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the members that the Executive Director's June 2024 and July 2024 expenses were in the amount of \$38.99 each for a monthly subscription to the Wall Street Journal; she asked the members to approve the monthly expenses. **FORMAL ACTION: Mr. Nolan made the motion to approve the Executive Director's June 2024 and July 2024 expenses in the amount of \$38.99 per each month for a monthly subscription to the Wall Street Journal; Mr. Rainwater seconded the motion. Chairman Brown, Jr. asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF REVISED FY'24 BUDGET (action item)

Ms. Kim Bennett presented this portion of the agenda. The members received a copy of the Revised FY'24 Budget for their review. Ms. Bennett informed the members that FY'24 ended on June 30, 2024 and there were some budget line items that had to be adjusted due to money being saved; she remarked, "we ended the year in good shape." She encouraged the members to contact her if they have any questions concerning the revised FY'24 budget. A member asked about a comparison of the Transit system's expenditures now versus the past. Mr. Butler advised that it was too soon to make those comparisons due to extra expenditures that were incurred, but were not anticipated. Lack of bus maintenance, rentals of substitute buses, significant increase in insurance premiums (for the Transit system) make it difficult to accurately compare the bottom line for the present and past Transit program. Insurance premiums (for the buses) were discussed with Mr. Butler adding that "sovereign immunity would help us to save on insurance" and that he would like to discuss the issue of sovereign immunity for regional commissions with Attorney General Chris Carr. Ms. Michelle Morgan commented that she was receiving less complaints from the public in her area regarding the transit system and she thanked Ms. Brantley for everything that she has done with the Transit Program. **FORMAL ACTION: Chairman Brown, Jr. asked for a motion for the Approval of the Revised FY'24 Budget. Ms. Gwen Flowers-Taylor made**

the motion for the Approval of the Revised FY'24 Budget; it was seconded by Mr. Nolan. Chairman Brown, Jr. asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

TRRC REGIONAL PLAN ADOPTION (action item)

Mr. Paul Jarrell presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the members that Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requires that all Regional Commissions in Georgia must have an approved and adopted regional plan and that the TRRC Regional Plan was submitted to the DCA for their review and approval. DCA recently approved the Regional Plan and sent the notification to Mr. Jarrell. Mr. Jarrell noted that DCA approved the plan without any revisions having to be made. This prompted a round of applause from the members. **FORMAL ACTION: Chairman Brown, Jr. asked for a motion regarding the Adoption of the TRRC Regional Plan. Ms. Adrienne Shales made the motion to adopt the TRRC Regional Plan; it was seconded by Mr. Kevin Hemphill. Chairman Brown, Jr. asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ON CREATING SAFE STREETS

Ms. Stephanie Wagner presented this portion of the agenda; this topic is for informational purposes only. It was reported that the Creating Safe Streets Program is a commitment to people inside and outside of vehicles. The goal is to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. It was noted that there are high crash rates in our region; the focus is on top crash locations. The program will start with a Safety Action Plan with an emphasis on design to reduce crashes as well as to implement safety countermeasures. One corridor highlighted was State Route 16; there was a total of 52 deaths for this corridor for the years of 2012-2022. Mr. Jarrell and Ms. Wagner mentioned various grants that were available and encouraged the members to look into the grant opportunities for their areas. Ms. Wagner advised the members that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is working on a Statewide Rural Active Transportation Plan that focuses on small towns and rural areas. GDOT has developed a public survey that is now open for citizens' input. Both Mr. Jarrell and Ms. Wagner encouraged the members to participate in the survey.

AUTHORIZE COUNTY TRANSIT CONTRACT RENEWALS FOR FY'25 (action item)

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda and advised that the fiscal year 2025 will be from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. She reported that the Transit Program has contracts with counties, cities and partners that are renewed annually and that the amounts on the contracts are not changing. TRRC Transit has 5311 transit contracts to be renewed with the following counties and other entities: Butts, Carroll, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Upson and the City of Griffin. The contracts with Carroll, Spalding and the City of Griffin will also include 5307 funding. Ms. Brantley noted that the 10% match for vehicle purchases would not be included in the FY'25 contracts; the counties will have the option for TRRC Transit to pay for the 10% match and have the vehicles titled to TRRC. The funds for this will come from either excess DHS revenues or the TRRC transit reserve. **FORMAL ACTION: Chairman Brown, Jr. asked for a motion regarding the County Transit Contract Renewals for FY'25. Mr. Rainwater made the motion to Authorize the Executive Director and Interim Transit Director to negotiate, update and renew the County Transit Contract Renewals for FY'25; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Chairman Brown, Jr. asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.**

AUTHORIZATION FOR FILING TRANSIT GRANT APPLICATIONS (action item)

Ms. Brantley presented this portion of the agenda as well. She advised the members that TRRC receives several grants to operate the Transit Program and the grant applications for FY'25 and FY'26 must be authorized by TRRC. The grant applications include the following: GDOT 5311 Rural Transit Grant, GDOT Mobility Management, GDOT Transit Trust Fund Program, 5307 Transit and the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Grants. Ms. Brantley asked the council to authorize the Executive Director and the Interim Transit Director to apply and file transit grant applications for FY 2025 and FY 2026. **FORMAL ACTION: Chairman Brown, Jr. asked for a motion regarding the Authorization for Filing Transit Grant Applications. Mr. Hemphill made the motion to Authorize the Executive Director and the Interim Transit Director to apply and file transit grant applications for FY 2025 and FY 2026; it was seconded by Mr. Nolan. Chairman Brown, Jr. asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Butler reminded the council that the Workforce Board will host a Local Elected Officials (LEO) meeting directly following the October 24, 2024 TRRC Council meeting; this meeting is to update the by-laws. He also reminded the members to pick up their "swag" bags before they left today's meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Jarrell advised everyone that Ms. Brantley was celebrating her 39th work anniversary with TRRC; the members applauded this accomplishment. Mr. Jarrell also advised that Ms. Perez had recently celebrated her 20th work anniversary and the members applauded this announcement. Ms. Perez advised that Ms. Joy Shirley had recently celebrated a work anniversary as well which drew more applause. Chairman Brown, Jr. congratulated the staff on their anniversaries as well as thanking the staff for the information they provided at the retreat and the council meeting. He encouraged the members to share this information with the citizens in their areas.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Brown, Jr. announced that the next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024 in Turin; additional meeting details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Brown, Jr. adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Ms. Flowers-Taylor and a second from Mr. Rainwater.

Faye Perdue, Secretary