

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
October 11, 2023
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ken Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A moment of silence was held in respect for Herb Jones, and Tom Ratcliffe's wife Linda. Invocation was provided by Commissioner Lannie Brant, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Lee, Jason Coley, Rosa Romeo, Rebecca Boston, Dan Coty, Sammy Tostensen, Lannie Brant, Craig Root, Walter Gibson, Carter Infinger, Tammy Goober, Shaw McVeigh, Steven Asplund, Steve Scholar, Julie Martin, and William Bland, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan McCollar, Reggie Loper, Chester Ellis, Chris Blaine, Tanet Myers, Hugh Hodge, Allen Amason, Preston Dees, Mary Hamilton, Jones Hooks, Sabrina Kent, Kristy Chance, Tom Ratcliffe, Richard Hayes, Van Johnson, Robert Parker, Donald Lovette, Allen Brown, Kate Karwacki, Anthony Simmons, and Chap Bennett.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Dina McKain, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: William Fallon, Danny Smith, John Gentry, Jason Hartman, and Toby Harris, Glynn County; Shawn Boatright, Camden County; Louise Mitchell and Samantha Young, Woodbine; Garrow Alberson and Jeremiah Bergquist, City of Brunswick; Anita Steensen, SBA Disaster; Jeff Ricketson, LCPC; and, Ann Purcell, Vice President, State Transportation Board.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Dionne Lovett, Assistant Executive Director; Barry James, Transportation Director; Aaron Carpenter, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Wincy Poon, GIS Manager; Chrishonda Grant, HR Transit Coordinator; and, Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director/HR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the September 13th meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Rosa Romeo
Second: Chairman Carter Infinger
Vote: Unanimous

BUSINESS ITEMS

Chairman Lee noted that Dionne Lovett, Assistant Executive Director, was currently serving as Executive Director.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL CREDIT CARD FOR CRC SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: *(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: Councilman Steve Scholar
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATION

GDOT Update: *(See Attachments 2 and 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Ann Purcell, Vice President, State Transportation Board, provided a PowerPoint overview of Transportation in

Georgia and provided Update Fact Sheets to those in attendance. Ms. Purcell stated that Troy Pittman is our District 5 Engineer and is available to help - he communicates with us, and then communicates with Atlanta. She stated that the GDOT Commissioner has also visited our region, at her request, to witness first-hand some of our transportation problems. Ms. Purcell highlighted major projects under development, and active construction projects in our region. Ms. Purcell also elaborated on other specific transportation projects throughout the CRC's 10 county region. She also provided highlights of the Coastal Empire Transportation Study that focuses on Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, and Effingham counties. Recommendations from the Study propose more than \$1 billion in transportation investments to improve mobility and connectivity on roadways in order to support the region's unprecedented economic growth. Ms. Purcell stressed that communication is key and encouraged everyone to not only let her and GDOT know about their transportation needs, but to also keep their legislators informed because funding is always an issue, and it is important for them to know where dollars need to go when they are looking at budgets. A Q & A followed her presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 4, 5, 6, and 7 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

It was questioned what "other" trips were in the transportation charts. Transportation Director Barry James stated he believed it was senior citizen trips.

CADDA Report: *(See Attachment 8, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Craig Root directed members to the handout included with the CADDA Report. Mr. Root stated that since the Council has financial oversight for CADDA, he thought this would be a good opportunity for members to learn more about CADDA, and he was inviting everyone to attend the CADDA networking event at Danny Norman's Tea Grove Plantation, in Walthourville, on October 24th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. The QR code provides a video about Tea Grove Plantation and there is also information to RSVP.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Lena has sent the draft ACFR to the Auditors and they are finishing our Audit. During their on-site exit interview, they indicated they did not foresee any issues with our Audit. The Audit will be presented to the Council at our November meeting.
- HVAC – There have been issues every week – the current chiller, which needs to be replaced, covers 60,000 sf; and since we sold the kitchen wing and the gym/office space is separated out, we now only need to heat/cool 35,000 sf. On Monday, an RFP will be released for a Chiller Heat Pump. Our current HVAC provider indicates costs range from \$170,000 - \$500,000 and we believe the \$170,000 unit will be sufficient for our needs. Our GDOT and Aging partners are willing to help fund this; however, we may need to use some general funds. The expenditure will be incorporated into our mid-year budget. It was questioned if going with the lowest price would cause problems in the future. Ms. Lovett explained that the higher end was a geo-thermal unit, a one-to-one chiller replacement would be a year out, and a new Chiller Heat Pump should be doable by the first of the year and should meet future needs as well.
- We have received four Open Records Requests regarding the McIntosh Zoning Update for the Sapelo Island District. We didn't actually work on the Sapelo update; however, it takes staff time to retrieve past emails to and from McIntosh County on the McIntosh Update.
- Allen and I, along with two planning staff members, facilitated the Liberty Retreat last month – and have done so for the past 16 years. Let us know if we can help you.

- At the request of Sapelo Island residents, Aging staff went to Sapelo Island on a Saturday and provided information to about 30 residents and their families.
- Our new Transportation Director has hit the ground running. We received extra funds through the TTFP grant and we have two years to spend. The first project completed was the installation of catalytic converter theft guards on 51 buses, so hopefully theft will not be an issue anymore. We've received an additional \$1.2 million from the TTFP money, which comes from rideshare taxes. The FY25 application is due September 30th. This money doesn't require a match, so we're looking to purchase four 12-14 passenger vans. We're also requesting funds for retention bonus pay for our drivers – we'll probably be asking the Council for approval of this in January. It was asked if we were trying to match the pay of someone outside of our region. Ms. Lovett responded that we looked in our region and \$16 is close since we don't require CDLs.
- An invitation was emailed inviting members to be part of a Project Advisory Committee for the Regional Transportation Development Plan that we are working on with GDOT. The first meeting will be here at the City Center on Monday, October 16th at 1:00 p.m.
- We received funding from the Southern Crescent Regional Commission, so we are looking to hire another grant writer.
- In regard to a possible government shutdown, we conferred with our funding sources, and they indicated we would have no impact; however, DHS said we may have to send notices to Aging clients saying there might be an interruption of service.
- The Georgia Association of Regional Councils (GARC) is looking at opportunities with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) for training for RC staff.

Lawsuit update – Assistant Executive Director Lovett stated that since the Executive Director handled the lawsuits, she would let him provide the update. Executive Director Burns reminded everyone that the lawsuit with the former Third-Party Operator (TPO) had been settled with no costs to us; we could have had to pay \$400,000. In regard to the second lawsuit brought by a former employee, we received a 42-page order last week dismissing all of his complaints and stating the case was closed. However, he does have 30 days to appeal to the 11th circuit. He will have to pay a few costs that our insurance didn't cover.

- Our office was closed on Monday for Columbus Day.
- The McIntosh County Health Department will be at our office tomorrow to give flu shots to staff.
- At the end of the month, we will have a Halloween luncheon as a team building activity.
- October is breast cancer awareness month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Ken Lee thanked Ms. Purcell for being here and stated that several months ago Governor Kemp assisted the CRC by getting Clement Solomon to work with us, and we were able to secure additional funds from GDOT to help with our deficit.

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Our next meeting is November 8th. The Budget & Finance Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. to meet with our Auditor prior to the Council meeting.

Ms. Aneeta Steenson, SBA Disaster Team, provided Disaster Loan Flyers and stated the deadline to apply is November 6, 2023. The SBA has lots of money on the table for homeowners, renters, non-profits, and businesses. *(See Attachment 9, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on November 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Hill City Center.