

GNRC

Greater Nashville Regional Council
220 Athens Way, Suite 200
Nashville, Tennessee 37228

GNRC Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:30 am
Via Microsoft Teams
Nashville, Tennessee

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Rogers Anderson | Williamson County |
| Paige Brown | Gallatin |
| Jason Cole | La Vergne |
| Faye DiMassimo | Nashville-Davidson County |
| Tim Ellis | Goodlettsville |
| Dale Grimes | Oak Hill |
| Gina Head | Springfield |
| Gerald Herman | White House |
| Anthony Holt | Sumner County |
| Jerry Kirkman | Westmoreland |
| Ken Moore | Franklin |
| Billy Vogle | Robertson County |
| Jessie Wallace | Humphreys County |

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mayor Paige Brown, called the Executive Board Meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Via Microsoft Teams, Nashville, TN.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Brown called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting.

Mayor Jason Cole made a motion to approve the December 16, 2020 minutes as presented. Mayor Anthony Holt seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

a) FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Gayle Wilson, GNRC Financial Director, said at the end of December 2020 the expenditures were \$6,394,318.20. The total revenue received was \$3,796,490.92. The total available cash is \$2,950,742.86 after deducting the TCAD advance. We are under our projected budget mainly due to underspending in travel, conferences and meetings and under on consultants' fees.

Mayor Jason Cole moved to approve the financial report with Mayor Ken Moore seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a) Results of the FY 2020 Independent Financial Audit

Ms. Jennifer Manternach and Mr. Curtis Payne of Crosslin Certified Public Accountants said they have completed the independent financial audit through June 30, 2020. Ms. Manternach said that audit did not show any findings. She thanked the staff for their assistance during the audit. She said that there were some audit adjustments which the staff accepted and they are recorded in the financial statements.

Mr. Curtis Payne said that the audit resulted in a clean opinion. He said that no material weaknesses nor significant deficiencies were found. He said that they tested the highway planning cluster this year and noted no findings.

Mr. Michael Skipper thanked the auditors for their efforts especially dealing with the remote working situation due to the pandemic.

Mayor Brown congratulated the staff, especially Ms. Gayle Wilson, for the clean audit.

b) Major Update to the Regional Economic Development Strategy for Northern Middle Tennessee

Mr. Skipper said that this is a rapidly growing region but the growth across the region has not been even. There have been areas that have lost population since 2010.

Ms. Angela Hubbard, Director of Economic and Community Development said that the mayors, business leaders and state officials have a shared responsibility to cooperate in developing a strategy to align public and infrastructure investments with the region's shared vision for economic growth. She said that federal regulations require Economic Development Districts to establish a 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to identify how public policies and infrastructure investments can be aligned with local economic development goals and objectives.

She said that a vision or purpose, clear priorities, the right people, and a consistent message are what it takes to be ready to bring new industries/jobs to the area.

She said that there is a survey that she needs everyone to fill out. It is at www.gnrc.org/survey/economy

She said that the GNRC can help with planning, research & analytics, and grant writing administration. The Economic and Community Development staff (Ms. Hubbard, Mr. Matt Von Lunen, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Rasheedah Pardue, Ms. Gwen Schaefer, Ms. Rhonda Smith, Mr. Donald Arnold, and Ms. Amy Napoli) are here to assist you.

The new CEDS will be adopted in September.

c) GNRC Membership Dues Estimates for FY 2022

Mr. Skipper said that each February the estimates for the upcoming fiscal year are sent to each jurisdiction to help with their budgeting process. The GNR operates on the state fiscal year but the budget is adopted each September by the full Council body given the reliance on federal grants. A continuation budget will be adopted in June.

He said that the Finance & Personnel Committee is recommending an assessment of \$.35/capita which is up from \$.31/capita. These dues account for less than 4% of GNRC's \$20M budget but are a critical part of securing significant levels of funding from State and Federal grant programs that support local social services, infrastructure upgrades, and economic and community development projects.

He said that additionally, the MPO communities are also assessed \$.28/capita as matching funds for federal grants made available by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

Mr. Skipper said that of the \$20M FY 201 budget nearly \$10M is sent directly to local communities for 1) support of senior centers and provide services for older adults, 2) fund arts and culture, tourism marketing, and home repairs, 3) provide technical assistance to municipal and county governments pursuing State and federal grant opportunities. Dues also help pay for the programming that keeps local governments, TDOT, and transit agencies eligible for more than \$260M+ per year in federal transportation grants. Dues also pay for GNRC expenses that are not reimbursable by State and federal grants.

Dues will be payable by December 31, 2021.

Ms. Faye DiMassimo though she still requests details about the dues increase and what the \$.4/capita increase will leverage. Specific details on amounts which show the return on investment are needed. Mr. Skipper said that the staff will be transparent. He said that it is hard to leave grant money on the table when so many people across Middle Tennessee need help. These funds must be leveraged with dues.

Mayor Brown said that the GNRC staff was asked for information on the benefits the jurisdictions receive.

REGULAR REPORTS

a) Chair's Report

Mayor Brown thanked the staff for all they are doing. She also thanked the finance department staff for their work on the audit.

Mayor Brown congratulated the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) and Mayor Reed on the new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

b) Staff Report

Mr. Skipper introduced the new staff members. Ms. Candi Henry is the new Chief Legal Counsel and Ms. Jessica Hill is the new Director of Community and Regional Planning.

Mr. Skipper reminded the members of the COVID-19 recovery loan program that is being supported with funding through the CARES Act.

He reminded the members that the 2021 calendar of meetings is located at www.GNRC.org/calendar

He said that the Membership Resource Guide is at www.GNRC.org/memberguide

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Edwards
Recording Secretary