MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 12, 2023, 4:00 pm
Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Executive Board Members Present:

Mayor John Harley, City of Centerville*
Councilman Clifford Holmes, City of Warner Robins*
Former Chairman Ned Sanders, Houston County *
Dr. Henry Ficklin, Macon-Bibb County*
Mayor Eric Wilson, City of Forsyth*

Other Local Officials, Staff, and Stakeholders Present:

Mike Greenwald, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning
Cassandra Cox, Georgia Power
Bryan Jones, Robins Air Force Base
Tiffany Davis, Jones County*

***Denotes Voting Member or Local Government Staff Proxy for Voting Member**

Support Staff Present

Ray Clark, The Clark Group
Greg Boike, MGRC Director of Planning and Public Administration
Alex Smith, MGRC Environmental and Land Use Planner
Kim Stanton, MGRC Executive Assistant

Welcome/Call to Order

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes called the June meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to order at 4:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was determined that a quorum was present, and the committee was able to conduct business.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the June 8 and September 14, 2023 meetings; they were unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and a second by Ned Sanders.

Financial Report

Sam Kitchens provided the Financial Report beginning August 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. Revenues included bank interest and member contributions totaling $436.84 and expenditures in the amount of $5,000.00; the ending balance as of September 30, 2023, was $88,162.37.

Ned Sanders noted that the balance of the account was lower than at this point in the previous year. Greg Boike responded by noting that dues were in the process of being sent out to members, which should increase the cash reserves over the next couple of months.

The Financial Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Tiffany Davis and a second by John Harley.

MGCAC 20-Year Review

Ray Clark gave an overview of the history of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition over the past 20 years. The presentation focused on the early development of the Coalition. Mr. Clark also highlighted several accomplishments and the individuals who were instrumental in spearheading the projects to bring cleaner air to Middle Georgia. Ray Clark and MGRC staff will continue working on a history document and will send out a content draft for comments.

Approval of Special Event – December 14

Greg Boike and Ray Clark reported on a special event celebration they would like to have to recognize the 20th anniversary of the MGCAC. The date they are suggesting is December 14.

Approval of the celebration was unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and a second by Eric Wilson.

MGRC Activity Report

Greg Boike gave a report on some activities happening in Middle Georgia regarding the work that is going on at the Robins Air Force Base related to sustainability, clean-air coalition efforts, and the solar project at the base.

Alex Smith reported on the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant. He said that the funds are available to focus on Greenhouse Gas reduction measures and reduce hazardous air pollutants. More information can be found at https://www.usgbc.org/articles/epa-opens-applications-43-billion-climate-pollution-reduction-grants-implementation.

Mr. Smith also reported on a grant opportunity for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, which provides grants and loans to states and other eligible entities to significantly reduce diesel emissions. More information can be found at https://www.epa.gov/dera.

Discussion

Ned Sanders discussed the latest news and progress pertaining to electric vehicles, solar power, and technology independence. This included articles on CO2, the electric grid, and the study on pollution and premature deaths. More studies and research are still being conducted.

John Harley also recognized Greg Boike for his hard work and his ongoing efforts for the MGCAC.

Vice Chair Clifford Holmes requested a motion be made to approve the recommendation to pay all outstanding bills. John Harley made the motion, seconded by Ned Sanders. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the October MGCAC meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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It was announced that the next meeting of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition will be held on November 16, 2023, at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.