

MINUTES OF AIRPORT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY – APRIL 10, 2024
FORT SMITH REGIONAL AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission was called to order at 12:00p.m. by Chairman Hawkins, presiding. Commissioners Cooper, Grimes, Ridgley and Voris were present. Commissioners Kelly and Pendergrass were absent. Also present were Michael Griffin, Airport Director, Carl Geffken, Fort Smith City Administrator, George McGill, Mayor, Fort Smith City Directors Kevin Settle, Lavon Morton, George Catsavis, Christina Catsavis, and Andre Good, as well as Sonny Bell, City of Greenwood Planning Director, Russ Bragg, and Joyce Essman.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. City of Fort Smith Agreement for Mutual Assistance for Improvement Projects – Chairman Hawkins reported that an updated copy of the proposed agreement was provided to the commission prior to today’s special meeting. The airport commission had reviewed the agreement numerous times, working with Carl Geffken and his staff, and the special meeting was called to approve the agreement. Commissioner Cooper asked if there had been any changes on the updated agreement provided at today’s meeting. Chairman Hawkins and Mr. Geffken stated the only changes made were the dollar amount on page one, and minor changes such as Director Griffin’s job title, the word committee changed to commission, etc. It was affirmed that the commission’s legal team had reviewed the updated copy of the agreement. Mr. Geffken asked when the funds could be transferred from the commission to the city, to which Director Griffin reported within ten business days.

A motion to accept the City of Fort Smith Agreement for Mutual Assistance for Improvement Projects was made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Voris. Voting aye: Cooper, Grimes, Hawkins, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. The motion carried. Mr. Geffken stated that the city would subsequently hold a meeting with airport staff to discuss details.

Mayor McGill reported that he appreciated the Airport Commission and the work they do. He said this agreement will setup the arresting barrier project for proper oversight. He also said there is a big announcement coming up soon that will make everyone feel very proud of the work accomplished as a team in Fort Smith.

2. Commissioner Grimes Resignation - Chairman Hawkins thanked Gary Grimes for the work he had done for the commission, and announced that Grimes was appointed to serve as the U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas and was resigning from the airport commission. Grimes reported that he had learned a lot about the airport over the past 4 years on the commission. He said he’d enjoyed working with all his fellow commissioners, as well as Mr. Geffken and Mayor McGill on this agreement, making it right for everyone - the commission, the city and the entire community.

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NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission will be Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Grimes and second by Commissioner Voris, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Voting aye: Cooper, Grimes, Hawkins, Ridgley and Voris. Voting Nay: none. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Griffin", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael Griffin, A.A.E.
Airport Director