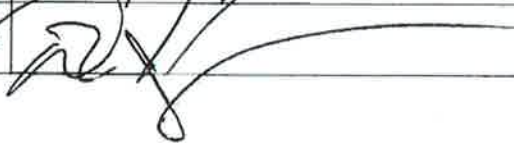


## PlanFirst Program Application - May 15, 2017

**Introduction:** The Department of Community Affairs' PlanFirst program rewards local governments that clearly demonstrate success with implementing their local comprehensive plan. To apply for PlanFirst designation, a local government must have Qualified Local Government certification and be current on required reporting to DCA. (To check status of both, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

A multi-agency review panel will evaluate a number of indicators of community success with plan implementation to select communities for this designation. All of these indicators are equally important, but size of the community is taken into consideration in the evaluation so that communities of various sizes are equally competitive for PlanFirst designation.

**Instructions:** Please answer all the following questions thoroughly, attaching additional pages where necessary, so that the reviewers have sufficient information to measure the success of your comprehensive plan implementation. Supporting documents might include: news articles, legal ads, lists of attendees, letters of support or other evidence of local involvement and commitment to successful plan implementation activities in your community. *Total application length, including supporting information and support letters, must not exceed 20 pages. Text areas will expand as needed.*

Applicant government	City of Byron, Georgia
Mailing address	401 Main Street, Byron, GA 31008
Telephone	(478) 956-3600
Email	tpeavy@byronga.com
Contact person; title	Tiffany Peavy, Economic & Community Development Director
Application prepared by	Brittany Bullock, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, certify that to the best of my knowledge the information in this application is true and correct.	
Name of authorized official signing; title	Derick W. Hayes
Date	5/12/2017
Signature	

## PRE-REQUISITES

A. (1) We have a consistent record of maintaining our Qualified Local Government status and submitting required reports to DCA, including the current Report of Local Government Finances. (To check status, visit: <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

QLG status:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no
Local government reports:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no

A. (2) We have attained the Minimum Standard for performance as called for in our regional commission's regional comprehensive plan.

yes  no

For each of the following indicators, fully explain how your community addresses this indicator; identifying specific examples and resulting local successes. (Each indicator will be scored 1, 3 or 5 points, except indicators j. and t. which may score up to 10 points.) Add exhibits and examples as needed to tell your story.

## INDICATOR: GOALS

B. The Goals (or Vision) section of our comprehensive plan is supported by the community and its leadership. How?

The goals of the Joint Comprehensive Plans for Peach County and the cities of Byron and Fort Valley were developed with active participation from community members and local leaders. Their involvement ranged in these processes from attending public hearings, participating in the steering committee, to the development and implementation of the community survey. The community and leadership of the City of Byron are committed to the goals and vision of their comprehensive plans and continue to take necessary steps to ensure they are pursued for the betterment of their community.

In March 2016, community members developed the following vision:

*"Peach County and the Cities of Byron and Fort Valley...Where a high quality of life for all ages, complete with exceptional education, an abundance amenities, and premier recreational opportunities exist. Where rich history, tourism, and agriculture continue to be an asset. We will strive to create a physically connected and unified community: the product of a well-trained workforce, successful local industry, and access to the statewide transportation."*

This vision is well within the scope of previous visions and goals. This consistency is evidence that the local leaders and community members are committed to and fully support the goals of the comprehensive plans.

**C. The Goals are both ambitious and achievable for the community. Please give examples of some ambitious yet achievable Goals included in your comprehensive plan.**

Since its inception, the City of Byron has been ambitious in setting achievable goals for the community. For example, the city set the goal to improve wastewater treatment efforts through intergovernmental collaborations. It was set out in the 2006 Community Agenda to “Improve conditions of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Byron by connecting to Warner Robins sewer system” (pg. 34). The project was estimated to cost \$500,000 and was to be funded by OneGeorgia. The project has since been completed and the wastewater treatment efforts have significantly improved. Byron now partners with the City of Warner Robins and the Macon Water Authority to provide cost-saving water and wastewater services. This effort took extensive research and planning by the City of Byron staff. Water services are essential to an excellent quality of life. Byron is now able to provide low-cost and high-quality services because of the forethought in the comprehensive plan.

Another example of an ambitious goal for the city was to improve community facilities with the construction of a new municipal complex. Starting with the 1991 Comprehensive Plan, this was a consistent priority and goal for community members and local leaders involved in planning matters. In the 2006 Community Agenda, the City of Byron reported it had developed plans for the new City Hall as a result of previous planning efforts (pg. 49). The idea evolved, and the goal to construct a \$5 million municipal complex was included in 2006-2011 Short-Term Work Program. This project was to be funded through a SPLOST, municipal bonds, and an insurance settlement – exhibiting commitment from both the community and local leaders. In the 2012-2016 Short-Term Work Program Report of Accomplishments, the City of Byron reported the completion of the Byron Municipal Complex in 2008, as well as the construction of the Veterans Memorial, a collaborative effort with the Byron Area Historical Society (pg. 33). The municipal complex now houses City Hall and the Municipal Court.

**D. The Goals steer local decision-making on a continuous basis. Please tell us how and provide specific examples.**

The City of Byron is continuously making decisions based upon the goals of the comprehensive plan. This is made possible through awareness of the goals by the city council, city staff, and community members. Current and past Work Programs (Section Q) exhibit the city’s commitment to planning for these goals, and the Reports of Accomplishments (Section R) show their success in carrying out these action items. For example, the city has made the decision to create and enforce several ordinances to advance the goals of the comprehensive plans. These ordinances include an ordinance addressing requirements within subdivisions, an abandoned property ordinance, and sign ordinances (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 55).

E. Consistent progress is being made at achieving the Goals. Please explain, and if possible, include examples of this progress.

The City of Byron is making consistent progress on the goals set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. For example, in the 2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, Peach County and the cities of Byron and Fort Valley set out several goals which are consistent with previous plan's goals and show a consistent vision for the future of Byron. These goals include:

Extend and update sewer, stormwater, and water infrastructure throughout the community (pg. 9)
Ensure that community facilities and services provided are available and capable of meeting the current and future needs of all county residents (pg. 11).
Foster the development of quality housing and neighborhoods (pg. 14).
Preserve, protect, and promote natural and cultural resources (pg. 15).
Improve transportation infrastructure to better serve residents and visitors of Peach County (pg. 17)

For example, the city's effort to plan for improved sewer, water, and stormwater infrastructure is consistently pursued. As mentioned in Section C, the city has been successful in securing improved resources and plans to improve water services and infrastructure. In its goal to preserve, protect and promote natural and cultural resources, the city collaborates regularly with Byron Area Historical Society to meet this goal. Most recently, this partnership upgraded signage in the city and the historic district (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 53). The new signage is essential to attracting tourism and the overall aesthetics of the community.

## INDICATOR: LEADERSHIP

F. We have effective planning staff or another suitable arrangement for handling community planning matters. Please tell us about your staff or suitable arrangement, including, if you wish, any degrees or certifications.

The City of Byron has several employees dedicated to the development of the community in planning matters. Derick Hayes, City Administrator, leads the city in its efforts to realize its fullest potential in line with the adopted city vision and goals. Mr. Hayes has nearly 20 years of experience with the City of Byron and has attended the Community Planning Institute. He is well versed in the city's priorities and is well prepared to handle community planning matters. Tiffany Peavy, Economic and Community Development, focuses her efforts in building relationships with key stakeholders to advance planning efforts for the city. Additionally, the planning staff is responsible for executing action items presented in the comprehensive plan. This staff includes Joseph O'Kere, Director and Certified Plans Inspector, and John McLeroy, Building Inspector. Combined, the planning staff has over 20 years of experience.

In addition to the city's staff, efforts to facilitate community planning matters are supported by the following local boards:

Byron City Council	Byron Downtown Development Authority
Byron Planning and Zoning Commission	Peach County Development Authority
Byron Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors	Housing Authority of the City of Byron
Byron Area Historical Society	

G. We have an active planning commission or similar body to steer local planning decisions. Please provide information about your commission or similar body; for instance, number of members, meeting schedule, local affiliations, etc.

The City of Byron's Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. The commission is comprised of six board members who evaluate planning related projects within the community on a regular basis. The Commission has a successful record of following appropriate planning protocol and has continued to carry out the goals of the comprehensive plan.

<b>Planning and Zoning Commissioners</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Local Affiliation</b>
Louis Evans, Chairman	Resident
Willie Frank Hamlin	Retired Resident
Chris Hodges	Byron Tire, Owner
Darrell Lettice	Resident
Steve Humphry	Retired Resident
Joseph O'Kere	Byron Planning and Zoning, Director

H. We have a regular local plan effectiveness evaluation process (such as annual planning retreats of elected leadership). Please provide information about the most recent.

Elected officials and city administrators regularly evaluate the local plan effectiveness. City staff utilizes the Community Work Program to pursue action items that will achieve planned goals and priorities. The Work Program is used by city departments to measure their success and track their progress. In addition to evaluating their success, administrators utilize the plan to evaluate the validity of future goals and whether expectations are realistic or need to be adjusted.

Priorities of the local plan are also utilized in the city's annual budgeting process. Local leaders and city officials work collaboratively to ensure line items are allocated to priorities of the work program. The community is welcome to give input during this process, which ensures that leaders listen to and value public comment.

I. All local officials (both elected and appointed) involved in local planning processes have recently attended training in how to use the plan effectively. Please list who attended, which trainings and the date(s) attended. These trainings may include those from Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Community Planning Institute, GMA or ACCG land use or planning classes, and similar courses.

Elected officials proactively seek training to prepare for successful plan implementation. See attachments for documentation of local leaders' training. Derrick Hayes, City Administrator, has

attended the Community Planning Institute so that he is well-trained and able to assist local leaders in the planning process, as well as its implementation.

J. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples where the plan steered a key local decision, with pertinent plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain the connection between the comprehensive plan and the decision(s) made.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Plan Reference</b>
1. Conduct evaluation of infrastructure in water and wastewater systems for each jurisdiction.	The city has evaluated infrastructure in water and wastewater systems to develop and prioritize a list of necessary upgrades and replacements needed throughout the city. This decision was necessary to reach the planned goal of improving community facilities and safety for all residents.	2017 ROA, pg. 53
2. Upgrade signage in the city and the historic district of Byron	The City of Byron partnered with the Byron Area Historical Society to upgrade signage. This decision was made to improve aesthetics and highlight local points of interest. See Section T for documentation of the upgrades. These improvements are vital in the city's goals and efforts to attract tourist and spur development.	2017 ROA, pg. 53
3. Increase Fire Department full-time manpower positions	The City of Byron has actively recruited for a new full-time professional. This decision is evidence of the city's forethought in improving safety and preparing for future growth indicated in the 2006 Needs and Opportunities. See the job posting attached for documentation.	2017 ROA, pg. 53
4. Develop and enact an abandoned property ordinance	Article X of the Byron Code of Ordinance addresses "Properties Which are Public Nuisances." This creation and enactment of this ordinance supports the community's planned efforts to improve housing, community facilities, and economic development efforts. Addressing abandoned properties has helped the community remove blight and improve overall safety.	2017 ROA, pg. 55
5. Purchase additional land near North Peach Park for future facilities	The city considers recreational park as a vital resource for citizens to experience a high quality of life. Because of this, Byron has invested in the expansion of North Peach Park to ensure its continued success. Ball fields, a playground, and a walking trail have been constructed since this purchase. This decision	2006 ROA, pg. 49

	was steered by the community's forethought to improve community facilities that will enhance quality of life and the health of residents.	
6. Acquire property for use as a cemetery	Byron acquired 1.5 acres of land to be used for the creation of a cemetery. The need was identified in the 2012 Community Work Program, and the decision was made to purchase the land based on this assessment and then need to prepare for expected population changes.	2006-2012 ROA, pg. 2
7. Develop plans and construct the Byron Municipal Complex	Since the conception of the comprehensive plan, community members and local officials saw the construction of a New City Hall/Municipal Complex as a priority. In 2006, the action item to break ground on the building was included in the comprehensive plan and leaders made the decision to move forward on the project. See Section T for documentation and description of the completed project.	2006 STWP, pg. 49 and 2006-2012 ROA, pg. 3
8. Form a Historic Preservation Committee	The Byron Area Historical Society supports the city as the historic preservation committee/commission. The Society regularly collaborates with the city to promote Byron as a place of historical significance. Most recently their support has catalyzed the development of the Walking/Driving Tour Brochures and the construction of the Veterans Memorial. See Section T for documentation of these accomplishments. The decision to support this group is vital to accomplish planned goals to improve tourism opportunities and to preserve natural and cultural resources.	2006-2012 ROA, pg. 3
9. Improve conditions of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Byron	The proper treatment of wastewater is an essential service for residents of Byron. The city made the decision to build partnerships with the City of Warner Robins and the Macon Water Authority. This need was identified by community stakeholders in comprehensive plans dating back to 1991. By cultivating intergovernmental relationships, the city was able to make significant progress in their efforts to improve public services.	2006-2011 STWP, ROA, pg. 4
10. Develop and approve a Historic Preservation Ordinance	The City of Byron developed Chapter 23 – Historic Preservation within the Byron Code of Ordinances in 2008. This decision was based	2006-2011 STWP, ROA, pg. 3

	on the city's commitment to preservation efforts in future uses of the city.	
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## INDICATOR: PARTICIPATION

K. Our comprehensive plan was prepared with multiple community input opportunities. Please provide information about these opportunities, including, if available, dates, agendas, other meeting materials.

The City of Byron has a long tradition of seeking public input in the development of their comprehensive plans. Most recently, in 2016, the City of Byron worked collaboratively with many community stakeholders to complete their 2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update. In addition to the required public hearings, a group of 31 stakeholders was selected to be members of the steering committee. Individuals in this group were diverse in backgrounds, experiences, and industries – giving opportunity for a variety of ideas and concerns to be shared. All steering committee meetings were open to the public as well, which gave community members outside of the committee the opportunity to give input throughout the process. The dates and topics of each meeting was as follows:

Meeting	Topic	Meeting Date
1	Steering Committee Kickoff – Overview of Comprehensive Planning and Discuss Vision	March 8, 2016
2	Community Goals	April 6, 2016
3	Needs and Opportunities	June 1, 2016
4	Economic Development	July 12, 2016
5	Community Work Program	August 3, 2016
6	Future Land Use & Presentation of Draft Plan	September 6, 2016

In 2006, the city, in collaboration with Peach County and the City of Fort Valley, created the Community Agenda Schedule (Figure 1) to ensure extensive public participation. They also launched [www.planpeach.com](http://www.planpeach.com) to inform the public of opportunities to get involved with the planning process. The website included meeting dates, times, locations, and topics of discussion. The steering committee even chose to launch an online survey on the website for citizens to voice their opinions.



Figure 1. Community Agenda Schedule

	2006											2007	
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
<b>Public Participation</b>													
Formulate Steering Committee													
Identify Community Stakeholders													
Elect Steering Committee Chairperson													
Kick-off Community Meetings													
Open House Meetings													
www.planpeach.com updates													
Formulate Public Participation Strategies													
Surveys and Comment Cards – Distribute by hand and post on website													
<b>Community Agenda</b>													
Creation of Future Land Use Map													
Define Vision for Character Areas													
Establish Implementation Program													
Analysis of Issues and Opportunities													
Prepare Short Term Work Program													
Public Hearings													
Adoption of Transmittal Resolutions													
Regional Development Center Review													
Georgia Department of Community Affairs Review Process (Due Oct 31, 2006)													

The survey included questions concerning population, land use, the economy, housing, historic and cultural areas, preservation of natural areas, public services, and intergovernmental relationships. In addition to posting the survey online, the surveys were made available at the City Halls' of Byron and Fort Valley, the Peach County Courthouse, the Byron Welcome Center, and the Troutman House, which houses the Peach County Welcome Center, Chamber of Commerce, and the Development Authority. They were also distributed in the 2006 June Kick-Off Community Meetings held in Byron and Fort Valley.

In 2006, twenty people attended the community meetings and all contributed to a rich discussion of the planning process. They also discussed their visions for Peach County and the cities of Byron and Fort Valley. The second public hearing was attended by three citizens and was used to inform them of the contents of the final plan.

L. The community input received during plan preparation influenced the content of the plan. How?

Community input played a significant role in the development of each comprehensive plan developed by the City of Byron. The goals, needs, and opportunities were derived almost exclusively from stakeholders during planning meetings and other opportunities for public input.

In addition to formal meetings, citizens had the opportunity to provide input through a number of mediums. For example, in 2006, a community survey was administered. The feedback received greatly influenced the stakeholders in the development of the plan. The steering committee considered the community's feedback when prioritizing goals and the amount of attention given to several topics. The results of the 2006 community survey results have continued to influence local decisions and planning efforts. For example, the community survey showed that 77 percent of respondents thought it was very important to introduce technical skills to area workforce development efforts. Therefore, the county as a whole worked to ensure that the Workforce Development Center was constructed and opened. The community group also collaborated with Middle Georgia Technical College, Central Georgia Technical College, Fort Valley State University, and other key stakeholders to identify needs and opportunities.

Additionally, the 2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan addresses the advancement of workforce in several ways. For example, the community vision states, “We will strive to create a physically connected and unified community: the product of a well-trained workforce, successful local industry...” (pg. 4). The plan also identifies the need to attract diverse industry, which will have significant impact on the city’s workforce (pg. 5). The city also identified the need to “expand economic opportunities in order to attract, create, and retain a talented workforce (pg. 6).” The community input received in the development of all comprehensive plans have been essential to ensure that planned priorities accurately reflect the needs and concerns of the people of Byron.

M. Our steering committee that guided development of the plan included local leaders and elected officials. Please provide a list of steering committee members and their local affiliations.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Telina Allred	City Clerk	City of Byron
T’umbia H. Ashmon	Assistant Chief Appraiser	Peach County Tax Assessor
Rich Bennett	IT Manager	Peach County
Tiffany Bibb	Assistant Director	City of Byron Public Works
Jessica Bird	Transportation Planner	Warner Robins Area Transportation
Rickey Blalock	Zoning Officer	Peach County
Larry Brown	Director	City of Fort Valley Public Works
Jill Bowen	Project Manager	Development Authority of Peach County
Larry Collins	Mayor	City of Byron
Dorothy Conteh	Retired Educator	Fort Valley State University
John Dubriel	Retired Educator	Fort Valley State University
Tina Harbuck	Personal Property	Peach County Tax Assessor
Derick Hayes	City Administrator	City of Byron
Morris Hillsman	Minister	Shiloh Baptist Church
Tisa Horton	Manager	Austin Theatre
Marcia Johnson	County Administrator	Peach County
James Khoury	Businessman	Khoury’s Menswear
Kathie Lambert	Executive Director	Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority/Main Street
Alexus Luciano	Intern	Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce
Martha McAfee	City Administrator	City of Fort Valley
Billy McDaniel	Director	City of Byron Public Works
Tom Morrill	President	Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tiffany Peavy	Executive Director	City of Byron Development Authority
Paul Schwindler	Director	Peach County Public Works
Lawrence Spurgeon	Director	Fort Valley Department of Public Safety
Billy Tripp	Director	Peach County Public Libraries
Xaviour Tucker	Resident	Peach County
BJ Walker	Executive Director	Peach County Development Authority

Melvin Walker	Chairman	Peach County Board of Commissioners
Barbara Williams	Mayor	City of Fort Valley
Wade Yoder	Businessman	Valley Athletic Club

N. We have an active, ongoing, outreach process for soliciting input on planning matters from a broad spectrum of the community, including non-traditional populations, and the resulting input is listened to by community leaders. Describe this process. How do you engage the stakeholders? Have partnerships been developed because of the planning process? This outreach process includes activities such as:

The City of Byron has an active, ongoing, outreach process to engage the community in planning matters. Every second Monday of the month, the Mayor and Council meet in regular session. Citizens are given the opportunity to give public comment on pressing matters. Elected officials listen to community members and strive to address concerns through both immediate action and intentional future planning. The Planning and Zoning Commission also meets in regular session the fourth Thursday of the month to discuss planning efforts. Citizens are given the opportunity to voice concerns at this meeting as well.

The City of Byron is also actively engaged with citizens on their Facebook page. This page gives the city a way to advertise community events and pertinent public meetings. Citizens are also able to give immediate feedback on local decisions and planning matters. Last, in the citizen's efforts to improve water services, a priority in each comprehensive plan, the city has created a Storm Water Citizens Involvement group. This opportunity gives residents the chance to express concerns and give input for decisions regarding stormwater improvements.

O. We have active advocates for plan implementation (such as activist citizens, organizations or neighborhood groups) that are listened to by community leaders. These groups include:

Civic groups and community organizations are actively involved in the implementation of and advocacy of the comprehensive plan. The City of Byron Area Historical Society, religious leaders, Rotary Club members, and several other key stakeholders utilize every opportunity described in Section N, as well as directly contacting local elected officials to voice concerns and collaborate with the city to accomplish community goals. The Lions Club, Garden Club and Rotary Club of Byron are also active groups that assist with plan implementation. These community leaders are committed to addressing locally mobilized projects and value input and support in these efforts.

## INDICATOR: IMPLEMENTATION

P. The Work Program section of our comprehensive plan consists primarily of specific action items that make it clear exactly what we intend to do to implement the plan. Please give examples of measurable action items included in your work program(s).

The City of Byron's Work Program sets measurable action items that make it clear projects' intentions, timeframes, cost estimates, responsible party, funding source, and connection to the community's identified needs and opportunities. The City of Byron has been intentional in creating specific goals for the Work Program that will produce measurable success rather than using

general policy statements. Figure 2 shows an excerpt from the 2017-2021 Work Program and how each of these items are displayed.

Figure 2. 2017-2021 Work Program Excerpt

Activity	Timeframe	Cost Estimate	Responsible Party	Funding Source	Needs and Opportunities
Ensure the plans and designs for development in/near flood-prone areas properly address excess water due to flooding in Byron	2017-2021	Staff Time	City of Byron	Budget	T 3
Evaluate traffic flow patterns near schools in Byron	2017-2019	Staff Time	City of Byron, Peach County Board of Education, GDOT	Budget	T 1
Chapman Road widening	2017-2020	\$500,000	City of Byron	GDOT, TIA	T 1, T 2
Improve lighting on I-75	2017-2020	\$500,000	City of Byron, Peach County	GDOT, Grants, SPLOST, Budget	T 1
Update existing outdoor lighting to LED lighting	2017-2021	\$1 million	City of Byron, City of Fort Valley, Peach County	Grants, Loans, SPLOST, Budget	T1
Install/Improve pedestrian infrastructure within downtown	2017-2021	\$250,000	City of Byron, City of Fort Valley, Peach County	GDOT, Grants, SPLOST, Budget	T 2
Install bicycle lanes along well traveled roads	2018-2020	\$300,000	City of Byron, City of Fort Valley, Peach County	GDOT, Grants, SPLOST, Budget	T 2

Source: 2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, pg. 41

Q. Our Work Program action items clearly address local needs or goals identified in the plan. These local needs or goals are aligned with work program activities. For example:

The City of Byron’s Work Program is clearly connected to local needs and goals identified in the plan. The most recent update to the plan highlights work program action items with their corresponding needs and opportunities (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, pg. 37-42). For example, the City identified Chapman Road widening as an activity and connected it to transportation goals 1 and 2.

Transportation Goal #1	Improve roads that serve as linkages to community activities and surrounding communities.
Transportation Goal #2	Magnify the opportunity to create Compete Streets along appropriate roadways as part of new development or development.

Source: 2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, pg. 16

See Section P for an excerpt on how these connections are exhibited in the Community Work Program.

R. We have a good track record of accomplishing most of the action items included in past plan Work Programs. Our Report of Accomplishments very specifically shows our level of accomplishment, such as:

The City of Byron is proud of its ability to implement action items of past plan Work Programs. Community members and local leaders working together to set ambitious, yet realistic goals will enhance the quality of life for all citizens. Some of the notable accomplishments include:

## **2006 Community Agenda, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 46-55**

### **Community Facilities**

- Purchase additional land near North Peach Park for future facilities.
- Study the feasibility of enacting an ordinance that would require developers to pay for all or part of the cost of expanding water and sewer services to development outside the city limits, and require them to agree to annex their property into the city.
- Implement program to maintain, repair and improve older sections of water and sewer lines ensuring that EPA water quality guidelines are met.
- Implement a street resurfacing program in coordination with GDOT's Local Assistance Road Program (LARP).
- Continue to implement existing public education program to encourage solid waste management reduction actions such as recycling, yard waste disposal alternatives, and used motor oil collection.
- Re-evaluate source of natural gas to consider need for increased capacity to meet future demand. Consider cooperation with Warner Robins and Fort Valley Utilities System.
- Develop plans to construct a new City Hall.
- Study options for improvement of access and traffic flow to Boy Scout Road from I-75.
- Implement agreement with Warner Robins for sanitary sewage treatment by building sewerage on east side of I-75.
- Implement an information exchange between the City of Fort Valley, the City of Byron, Peach County, local economic development organizations, and Peach County Board of education that will aid in the development of the local school facilities.

### **Economic Development**

- Work with Peach County Chamber of Commerce, Better Hometown program and other assistance organizations to develop and implement a marketing plan for commercial and industrial development and tourism in the city.
- Update and maintain the City of Byron website with the focus on using it as an economic development tool.

### **Housing**

- Strengthen and enforce ordinances to improve the appearance and condition of the community (Building Codes, Certificate of Occupancy requirements, and Abandoned Car ordinance).

### **Land Use**

- Revise existing zoning ordinance text and map, including sign and subdivision regulations.

### **Natural and Historic Resources**

- Identify potential greenspace and highway beautification corridors in Peach County.
- Lobby legislative delegation to include Peach County as a designated recipient of the Georgia Greenspace Program.
- Lobby legislative delegation to include Peach County as a designated recipient of the Georgia Greenspace Program.
- Enforce existing Soil and sedimentation Control Ordinance, Floodplain Damage Prevention Ordinance, and Stormwater Management Ordinance.
- Adopt and implement the Part V Environmental Criteria Ordinances (Water Resource Protection Ordinance) for wetlands and groundwater recharge areas.

## **2012-2016 Short Term Work Program, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 1-5**

### Community Facilities and Services

- Develop brochures and driving routes to attract tourists to locations of interest in the City of Byron
- Construct a Byron Municipal Complex
- Construct Veterans Memorial in front of new Municipal Complex in Byron
- Seek grant funding to refurbish the Byron Community Center
- Develop and approve a Historic Preservation Ordinance for the City of Byron
- Form a Historic Preservation Committee
- Develop a stormwater management ordinance for each of the governmental jurisdictions.
- Provide avenues for communication to address healthcare concerns within Peach County
- Improve conditions of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Byron by connecting to Warner Robins sewer system
- Development of Memorial Park and Walking Area near new Municipal Complex in Byron
- Provide full-time certified fireman.

### Economic Development

- Seek Entrepreneur Friendly Community designation from the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development
- Survey students at Peach County schools to determine the types of businesses and industries that the community is suited for.
- Conduct a needs assessment that can better position industry, Fort Valley State University, and economic development entities in Peach County to train potential employees with the proper skills sets required for employment.
- Byron Better Hometown Program to promote newly defined downtown area to encourage development and investment within the area.

### Natural and Cultural Resources

- Acquire property for use as a cemetery.

## **2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 53-57**

### Community Facilities and Services

- Upgrade signage in the city and the historic district of Byron.
- Conduct evaluation of infrastructure in waste and wastewater systems for each jurisdiction
- Increase Fire Department full-time manpower positions.

### Housing

- Develop and enact an abandoned property ordinance

### Lan Use & Transportation



- Rework Frontage Road to reduce the amount of traffic congestion

S. Our local capital budget is consistent with and is designed to implement, the comprehensive plan. Please explain the connections between your budget and your work program.

The City of Byron exhibits consistent commitment to allocating dollars of the capital budget to advance the implementation of the comprehensive plans. Projects with budget allocations include:

1. The support and enhancement of police programs to provide educational opportunities to school children on the danger of various drugs (2012-2016 STWP, pg. 1);
2. Continuous marketing efforts to promote community assets and the industrial areas of the Peach County and Byron Development Authority (2006 Community Agenda, Byron STWP 2006-2011, pg. 35);
3. Collaborative efforts with Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce to develop a marketing strategy for the City of Byron (2012-2016 Byron STWP, pg. 2);
4. The creation of visitor guides for promotion of tourism (2012-2016 STWP, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 3);
5. Efforts to increase directional signage to points of attraction within the community, including historical properties (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 53);
6. The update of existing outdoor lighting to LED lighting (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Community Work Program, pg. 41); and
7. The installation of improvement of pedestrian infrastructure within downtown (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Community Work Program, pg. 41).

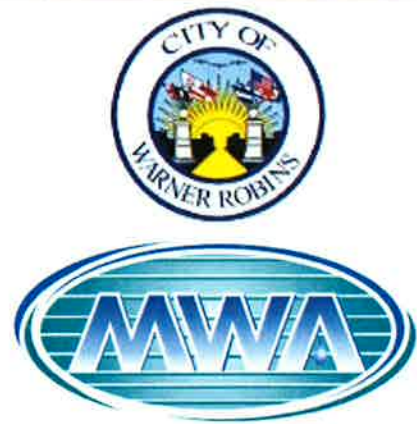
T. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples of important projects carried out as a result of the plan, with the specific plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain how these activities were a result of the plan or the planning process. Consider including photographs, newspaper articles or other exhibits to elaborate on these projects.

Projects	Documentation
<p>1. <b><u>Encourage a recycling program to take place in Byron</u></b> (City of Byron Comprehensive Plan, March 1991, pg.109) The City of Byron partners with Advanced Disposal's Clean &amp; Green initiative to implement this action item. This program offers single stream recyclables collection to homes, communities, and businesses. More customized recycling solutions for manufacturing, construction, and other industry/business needs are also available. Byron has made access to recycling a priority since it was identified as a need in the 1991 comprehensive plan.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Construct the Byron Municipal Complex</u></b> (2006-2012 ROA, pg. 3) The Byron Municipal Complex houses City Hall and the city's municipal courts. Creating a centralized location for all city services was essential in improving service delivery to community members. Since the comprehensive plan's inception, local leaders and community members have identified a need for a New City Hall/Municipal Complex. The success of this project can be attributed to the diligent planning efforts laid out in the comprehensive plans.</p>	

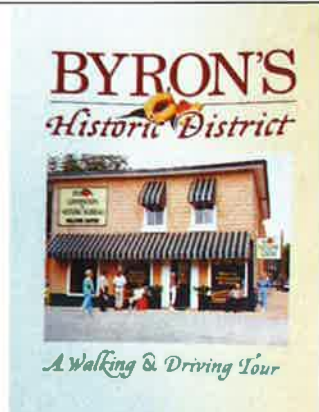
3. **Construct Veterans Memorial in front of Municipal Complex** (2006-2012 ROA pg. 3) The City of Byron partnered with the Byron Area Historical Society to construct the Veterans Memorial. This project was identified as an opportunity to preserve cultural resources during the construction of the new municipal complex. The Veterans Memorial honors all whom have served the military that are native to the City of Byron – a point of pride for many of the community stakeholders involved in the planning process.



4. **Improve conditions of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Byron** (2006 Community Agenda, pg. 34) The City of Byron has partnered with the Macon Water Authority and the City of Warner Robins to complete this project. Although residents have seen an increase in rates, ultimately, the city has saved significantly through this partnership. City Councilman Michael Chidester stated in 2012 that if Byron built a new treatment facility, which would be necessary if Byron treated its own water, water and sewer rates would have doubled in the community (The Telegraph, November 12, 2012). The improvement of water infrastructure and services has been a priority since the 1991 Comprehensive Plan.



5. **Develop brochures and driving routes to attract tourists to location of interest in the City of Byron** (2012-2016 STWP, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 3) A Walking and Driving Tour brochure of Byron's Historic District was developed through a partnership with the Byron Area Historical Society. The city has also created a cemetery walking tour as an additional tourist attraction. This effort supports the city's goals to preserve natural and cultural resources, as well as improve and increase the number of tourist attraction in Byron.



6. **Support and enhance police programs designed to provide educational opportunities to school children on the danger of various drugs** (2012-2016 STWP, pg. 1) The City of Byron Police Department purchased an education trailer for their Safe Traffic Operation Program (STOP) in March 2017. STOP promotes safe driving decisions through awareness and education on traffic safety issues such as impaired driving because of drugs and alcohol, distracted driving, amongst many others. The police department will utilize this trailer to travel





to schools, colleges, churches, safety fairs, and more to promote safe driving free of the danger of drugs and other safety hazards. This project's success is vital in supporting the planned goals to enhance safety for the children of Byron.

7. **Upgrade Signage in the city and the Historic District of Byron** (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 53) Signage was updated throughout the city to improve overall aesthetics and encourage tourism throughout the community. This project is closely aligned with the city's overall efforts to improve community and economic development.



8. **Work with Keep Peach County Clean and Beautiful to ensure cleanliness of community is maintained** (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, pg. 57) The City of Byron collaborates regularly with Keep Peach County Clean & Beautiful. Most recently, the organization hosted the county's Great American Clean Up on April 22, 2017. This event gives citizens the opportunity to come together, utilize their resources, and pick up trash in the community. The organization utilized social media and personal outreach to recruit volunteers. By participating in this event, the city works to achieve its planned goal to ensure cleanliness of the community. A clean and beautiful community ultimately supports the city's efforts to improve community facilities and create an attractive environment for economic development projects.



9. **Enhance fire protection throughout the community** (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 10) The City of Byron has sought to improve the capacity of the Fire Department to ensure safety for residents and personal property. The department has done so through training, procurement of new equipment and the hiring of new state certified firefighters. The department utilizes social media and the City of Byron website to keep residents up to date on their activities and potential threats to the community.



10. **Rework Frontage Road** to reduce the amount of traffic congestion (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Report of Accomplishments, pg. 56). This successful project was pertinent to achieving the community's planned goals to prepare for economic, community and housing development efforts. With traffic eased, the City of Byron is more accessible to community members, potential developers, and logistics industries.



## Supporting Documentation

Section J, #3  
 Advertisement for Full-Time Firefighter  
 Source: Byron Fire Department Facebook page, retrieved May 8, 2017

The City of Byron will accept applications for a full time firefighter and part time firefighters until February 23, 2017. If you are interested go [here](#) to get an application. All applications must be submitted to the City Clerk by the deadline.

**FIREFIGHTER, FULL-TIME (24/48-HOUR SHIFT) FIREFIGHTERS, PART-TIME (AS NEEDED)**  
**BYRON (GA) FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**CLOSING DATE: 23 FEBRUARY 2017**

Applications are now being accepted to hire a full-time firefighter on 24/48-hour shift AND part-time firefighters on an as-needed basis with the City of Byron Fire Department. Current certification by the State of Georgia as Firefighter or Pro Board NPO Firefighter I is required as a minimum. During this process, additional consideration will be given to those individuals who possess additional current State certifications, Pro-Board NPO certifications, and/or additional combination of training, education, and experience acceptable to the Department.

Qualified candidates should pick up an application at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Byron, Georgia 31008 or may be obtained online at [www.byronge.com](http://www.byronge.com).

No phone calls or emails will be accepted during this process.

Deadline for accepting applications will be Thursday, 23 February 2017 at 4:00PM, sent to the attention of City Clerk, Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Byron, Georgia 31008.

It is the policy of the City of Byron as an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer to provide equal opportunity for all persons to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or any other category protected by law. A full and complete copy of the job description, essential job functions, and the hiring policies of the City are available for copy, inspection, and review upon request to the City Clerk's Office during normal working hours.

Section I  
 Training Documentation for Elected Officials



The Harold F. Holtz  
 Municipal Training Institute  
 for Elected Officials

### TRAINING TRANSCRIPT

Mr. Alan C. Dorsey  
 City of Byron  
 121 Majestic Oak Circle  
 Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
 Student ID: 95762

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Required	Credits	Completed	Completion Date
Certificate of Recognition	42	45	45	January 23, 2017
Certificate of Achievement	72	45	45	
Certificate of Excellence	120	45	45	
Certificate of Distinction	204	45	45	

#### Completed Courses

ELECTIVE	Credits	Completion Date
Changing Demographics and Best Practices	3	6/27/2015
Downstream Development Authority Basic Training	6	1/23/2016
Law Enforcement Services: Trends and Best Practices	6	1/21/2017
Clubs for Local Government	3	1/23/2017
<b>NEW ELECTED</b>		
Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	3/1/2014
<b>REQUIRED</b>		
Municipal Law	6	6/21/2014
Taxation 101 - The Basics	9	1/24/2015
Open Records	3	1/25/2016
Municipal Finance	6	1/28/2014

N/C=No Credit for Class

Sponsored by The University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government



**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Rusty Adams  
City of Byron  
401 Main Street  
Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID: 99367

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	45	January 21, 2017
Certificate of Achievement	72	45	
Certificate of Excellence	120	45	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	45	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Money, Money, Money	6	8/28/2016
Beyond the Beltway	3	8/24/2016
Critical Issues: Municipal Law Update	3	8/25/2016

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	2/28/2016
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**REQUIRED**

Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Staff	3	1/22/2016
Ethics	6	1/23/2016
Practices for Successful Meetings	3	1/25/2016
Open Records	3	1/20/2017
Human Resources (formerly Personnel Admin.)	6	1/21/2017
Opening Meetings	3	1/23/2017

N/C=No Credit for Class

Sponsored by The University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government



**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Rusty Adams  
City of Byron  
401 Main Street  
Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID: 99367

Page 2

Public Policy Development & Implementation

3

8/27/2018

N/C=No Credit for Class

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**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. James Richardson  
City of Byron  
401 Main Street  
Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID: 81531

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	87	June 23, 2012
Certificate of Achievement	72	87	January 24, 2015
Certificate of Excellence	120	87	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	87	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Downtown Development Authority Basic Training	6	8/23/2012
Changing Demographics and Best Practices	3	8/27/2015
Environmental Sustainability	6	1/23/2016
Changing Demographics and Best Practices	0	8/25/2016
Water Management	6	1/25/2014
Strengthening Your Community / Children & Family	6	8/21/2014

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	2/16/2008
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**REQUIRED**

Emergency Management	6	4/9/2008
Ethics	6	6/21/2008
Open Meetings/Open Records	6	1/24/2009

N/C=No Credit for Class

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**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. James Richardson  
City of Byron  
401 Main Street  
Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID: 81531

Page 2

Excellence in Utilities	6	1/21/2012
Economic Development	6	1/24/2015
Public Problems, Democratic Decisions	6	1/21/2017
Council/Staff Relationships	6	1/28/2013
Conflict Resolution	6	8/22/2013
Human Resources (formerly Personnel Admin.)	6	1/26/2008

N/C=No Credit for Class

Sponsored by The University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government



The Harold F. Holtz  
Municipal Training Institute  
for Elected Officials

**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Michael Chidester  
City of Byron  
PO Box 1704  
Byron, GA 31008-1704

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID:

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	150	July 28, 2004
Certificate of Achievement	72	150	January 20, 2007
Certificate of Excellence	120	150	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	150	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Municipal Services	6	1/25/2003
Public Safety Issues, Funding and Innovations	6	7/28/2004
Municipal Codes and Courts	6	1/22/2005
Public Safety Issues, Funding and Innovations	6	6/24/2005
Building Hometown Connections: Lobbying	6	1/21/2006
Risk Management and Insurance	6	1/26/2008
Downtown Development Authorities	6	8/21/2008
City - County Cooperation	6	11/14/2008
Fire and Emergency Medical Services	6	1/23/2012
Revitalizing Neighborhoods - Tools for Local Officials	6	8/23/2012
Water Management	6	1/25/2014
Law Enforcement Services- Trends and Best Practices	6	8/21/2014
Environmental Sustainability	6	1/24/2015

N/C=No Credit for Class

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The Harold F. Holtz  
Municipal Training Institute  
for Elected Officials

**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Michael Chidester  
City of Byron  
PO Box 1704  
Byron, GA 31008-1704

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID: 70681

Page 1

Risk & Insurance 101 (Managing Your City's Risk)	3	8/27/2015
Effective Practices for Municipal Operations 101	3	6/29/2015
Critical Issues: Municipal Law Update	3	6/27/2016

**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	2/2/2002
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**REQUIRED**

Municipal Law	6	5/3/2002
Economic Development	6	8/21/2003
Excellence in Utilities	6	1/24/2004
Community and Media Relations	6	6/25/2004
Conflict Resolution	6	6/22/2013
Managing Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures	6	6/24/2005
Emergency Management	6	10/13/2006
Planning and Zoning	6	1/20/2007
Ethics	6	1/23/2016
Public Policy Development & Implementation	3	8/25/2016
Public Problems, Democratic Decisions	6	1/21/2017

N/C=No Credit for Class

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The Harold F. Holtz  
Municipal Training Institute  
for Elected Officials

**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Lawrence C. Collins  
City of Byron  
401 Main Street  
Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID:

Page 1

Certificate Levels	Credits		Completion Date
	Required	Completed	
Certificate of Recognition	42	156	August 24, 2005
Certificate of Achievement	72	156	January 20, 2007
Certificate of Excellence	120	156	
Certificate Of Distinction	204	156	

**Completed Courses**

**ELECTIVE**

Downtown Development Authorities	6	1/24/2004
Managing Growth	6	6/25/2004
City - County Cooperation	6	10/20/2004
Building Hometown Connections: Lobbying	6	1/22/2005
Mobile Workshop	6	6/24/2006
Housing Solutions	6	7/28/2006
Fire and Emergency Medical Services	6	1/28/2008
Environmental Sustainability	6	6/25/2011
Creating a Downtown Renaissance	6	1/25/2014
Social Media for Local Elected Officials	6	6/21/2014
Public Presentations and Meet the Media	6	1/24/2015
Economics of Education	3	8/27/2015
Critical Issues: Municipal Law Update	3	6/26/2016
Revitalizing Neighborhoods - Tools for Local Officials	6	1/21/2017

N/C=No Credit for Class

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The Harold F. Holtz  
Municipal Training Institute  
for Elected Officials

**TRAINING TRANSCRIPT**

Mr. Lawrence C. Collins  
City of Byron  
401 Main Street  
Byron, GA 31008

As Of: 2/10/2017  
Student ID: 51027

Page 1

Municipal Codes and Courts	6	6/23/2012
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**NEWELECTED**

Newly Elected Officials Institute	6	3/19/2004
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**REQUIRED**

Municipal Law	6	1/24/1993
Open Meetings/Open Records	6	1/26/2013
Conflict Resolution	6	6/22/2013
Community and Media Relations	6	1/23/2016
Taxation 101 - The Basics	6	1/21/2012
Economic Development	6	8/21/2008
Planning and Zoning	6	1/20/2007
Emergency Management	6	8/23/2007
Excellence in Utilities	6	8/24/2005
Municipal Finance	6	8/24/2005
Human Resources (formerly Personnel Admin.)	6	1/21/2006

N/C=No Credit for Class

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