



WALKER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

101 South Duke St.
P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706.924.0099

Andy Arnold (Chair)
Max Morrison (Vice-Chair)
Jim Cole (Secretary/Treasurer)
Evitte Parrish

Mark Chandler
Angie Teems
Stephanie Watkins (Executive Director)

Minutes of the Regular Meeting **January 14, 2025**

I. Call to order at 10:03 a.m. by Andy Arnold

Present: Chair Andy Arnold, Vice Chair Max Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Cole, Mark Chandler, Evitte Parrish, Executive Director Stephanie Watkins, and Development Authority Attorney David Gottlieb. Others present: see attached sign-in sheet.

Absent: County Commission Chair Angie Teems

II. Invocation given by Max Morrison

After the Invocation, Chairman Andy Arnold sought a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Upon request, Attorney David Gottlieb exited the meeting prior to Executive Session.

Motion: Jim Cole made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Mark Chandler, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to exit Executive Session and enter into the Regular Meeting, seconded by Max Morrison, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

Attorney David Gottlieb returned to the Regular Meeting.

Following Executive Session in the Regular Meeting, Evitte Parrish made a motion to hire David Gottlieb Law Firm at a rate of \$150 per hour, seconded by Max Morrison, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Cole, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. November 19, 2024 and December 27, 2024

Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

V. Financial Report

Secretary/Treasurer Jim Cole presented the attached financial reports for November and December 2024.

Vice Chair Max Morrison asked for clarification on the different dollar amounts of the Roper PILOT shown as a credit versus debit. Executive Director Stephanie Watkins explained that the credit amount was the total PILOT due and that the debit amount was distributed among the County, School, and City. The difference between the credit and debit amount is due to the percentage retained by the Development Authority. Vice Chair Morrison thanked Executive Director Watkins for the explanation.

Motion: Mark Chandler made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Stephanie Watkins stated that she received five RFIs for fiscal year 2025 and that she is working on 8 active industrial projects. She mentioned the Job Tax Credits (JTC) Tier status for Walker County remained at a Tier 3 for 2025 which meant a \$1,250 per job tax credit for Walker County industries, plus an additional \$500 per job tax credit due to Walker County's participation in the Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority resulting in a total of \$1,750 JTC for each new job created with a minimum of 10 new jobs. Executive Director Watkins mentioned that the Walker LAUNCH College & Career Academy is expected to offer the Mechatronics pathway this year. She then mentioned the new Development Authority Law that will require an additional 8 hours of training for all Development Authority Board Members beginning July 1, 2025 and that she will provide additional information on available training opportunities in the near future.

VII. Presentations

No presentations.

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate, seconded by Jim Cole, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to exit Executive Session and enter into the Regular Meeting, seconded by Max Morrison, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IX. Election of Officers for 2025

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to keep the same slate of officers which are Andy Arnold, Chair; Max Morrison, Vice Chair; and Jim Cole, Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Mark Chandler, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.


Secretary

2/11/25
Date

Minutes prepared by: Executive Director, Stephanie Watkins