



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
Shannon Whitfield
Stephanie Watkins (Executive Director)

Minutes of the Regular Meeting **May 16, 2023**

I. Call to order at 10:00 a.m. by Andy Arnold

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

II. Invocation given by Shannon Whitfield

III. Approval of the Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. April 10, 2023 Meeting

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

V. Financial Report

Secretary/Treasurer Jim Cole gave the financial report for March 2023 stating that the balance as of March 31, 2023 was \$1,552,379.24.

Motion: A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to approve the financial report for March, seconded by Mark Chandler, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

Mr. Cole then gave the report for April 2023 stating that the balance as of April 30, 2023 was \$1,553,058.15 and that the Development Authority received a PILOT payment from Nissin which will be reflected in the next month's report.

Motion: A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to approve the financial report for March, seconded by Mark Chandler, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Stephanie Watkins stated that she was able to accompany the Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority on April 19th to Atlanta to showcase both the Walker County Business Park and Northwest Georgia Business & Industrial Park to State and regional project managers. She stated that the event was very well attended and that project activity has increased since the presentation.

Mrs. Watkins mentioned that the overall project activity has increased and that we received 8 new requests for information since the meeting. She stated that she is actively working 9 new projects, has an existing industry meeting later in the week, an RFI due the first of next week as well as a site visit to the Walker County Business Park.

Executive Director Watkins mentioned the Walker County Brownfields Program progress, and that she had received the Walker LAUNCH Advisory Board Member of the Year Award for 2022-2023.

A copy of the Executive Director's Report is attached.

VII. Executive Session

A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to enter into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate. The motion was seconded by Mark Chandler, 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to exit Executive Session and enter into Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Cole, 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Following Executive Session in the Regular Meeting, Jim Cole made a motion to approve the Quitclaim Deed between the Walker County Development Authority and the Walker County Board of Education for approximately 3.5 acres of land located on Williams Street in Rossville. Mark Chandler seconded the motion, 4 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.


Secretary

6/13/23
Date

Minutes prepared by: Executive Director, Stephanie Watkins