



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 **July 18, 2023**

I. Call to order at 10:04 a.m. by Andy Arnold

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

Absent:

II. Invocation given by Shannon Whitfield

III. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to approve the agenda upon changing the order of the agenda items to reflect *Executive Session* prior to *Approval of Independent Contractor Agreement with Walker County for Sale of Real Property*, seconded by Shannon Whitfield, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. June 13, 2023 Meeting

Motion: Jim Cole made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of listing members not present on the June Meeting Minutes and all Meeting Minutes moving forward, seconded by Max Morrison, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

V. Financial Report

Secretary/Treasurer Jim Cole gave the financial report for June 2023 stating that the only expense listed was the reimbursement to Walker County for WCDA expenses. He mentioned that all CDs have renewed and that the total balance of all Authority accounts as of June 30, 2023 was \$1,849,139.62

Motion: A motion was made by Evitte Parrish to approve the financial report, seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Stephanie Watkins stated that the demographic data provided by Esri through the GIS Webtech Guru technology on the Walker County Development Authority website had recently been updated.

Mrs. Watkins mentioned that she received 4 new requests for information since the last meeting.

Executive Director Watkins stated that she and the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEC) Regional Project Manager met with two existing industries last week and have plans to schedule additional existing industry visits on a regular basis.

Mrs. Watkins stated that the closeout meeting for the REBA Grant took place earlier in the month and that we are awaiting the official closeout documentation. She mentioned that the files must be kept for three years after closeout.

Executive Director Watkins mentioned that the Walker County Brownfields Program continues to move forward and that there are two potential Phase II ESAs to be performed.

VII. Executive Session

A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to enter into Executive Session to discuss the potential conveyance of real estate. The motion was seconded by Evitte Parrish, 5 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 Evitte Parrish, 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

Following Executive Session in the Regular Meeting, Max Morrison made a motion to table any action regarding the Marketing Agreement pending obtaining a written legal opinion from an environmental specialist attorney regarding the Development Authority's liability for environmental issues in regard to the Development Authority's participation in the Marketing Agreement. Evitte Parrish seconded the motion, 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

VIII. Approval of Independent Contractor Agreement with Walker County for the Sale of Real Property

No action taken, item tabled.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Secretary



Date



Minutes prepared by: Executive Director, Stephanie Watkins