



WALKER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

101 South Duke St.
P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437

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 12, 2022**

- I. Call to order at 10:00 a.m. by Andy Arnold**
Present: Chair Andy Arnold, Vice Chair Max Morrison, Secretary/ Treasurer Jim Cole, Mark Chandler, Shannon Whitfield, Evitte Parrish* (teleconference), and Executive Director Stephanie Watkins. Others present: see attached sign-in sheet.
- II. Invocation given by Shannon Whitfield**
- III. Approval of the Agenda**
Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Cole, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. May 10, 2022**
Motion: Jim Cole made a motion to approve, seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- V. Financial Report**

Jim Cole presented the May and June financial reports. He stated that there were no expenditures to report nor deposits except for interest earned. The account balance as of June 30, 2022 is \$1,868,824.95.

Motion: Shannon Whitfield made a motion to approve, seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- VI. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Stephanie Watkins stated under *marketing initiatives* that as we continue to market available properties for industrial development, we are also continuing our efforts to obtain information for available retail/commercial properties. We held a quarterly Retail Recruitment Collaboration Team meeting last month and it was suggested that we meet every other month to stay more connected. We received an RFI from a consultant who is working with a national retailer that is considering opening a location in LaFayette.

In regards to industrial recruitment and expansions, Mrs. Watkins stated that we received three new requests for information since our last meeting. Two requests were for the Walker County Business Park and one was for Rossville.

Mrs. Watkins then mentioned that Walker County in partnership with the cities of Chickamauga, LaFayette and Rossville will receive a \$500,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform brownfield assessments on several site locations throughout the county and that community meetings will be scheduled in the near future for those interested in having their property added to the list for assessment. She also mentioned that she will be the project lead and attend the National Brownfields Conference in August.

Under other economic development activities, such as existing industry visits, Executive Director Watkins stated that she and our Georgia Department of Economic Development Region Representative held a virtual meeting with Labrie. Mrs. Watkins stated that the final report for the REBA grant had been submitted and additional information was requested to be able to move forward with the closeout.

Lastly, Mrs. Watkins stated that a teleconference for an application review regarding the TVA Workforce Invest grant was held last month. She stated that our application was well received and contingent award offers are expected mid August.

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

VII. Projects Overview

Executive Director Stephanie Watkins gave a brief overview of Project Watt, Project Drive, and Project M&M. She stated that Project Watt was interested in a couple of acres in the Walker County Business Park, but that the company decided not to move forward with the project. Project Drive is an existing industry interested in approximately 1.5 acres in the Northwest Georgia Business & Industrial Park and Project M&M is interested in the Walker County Business Park.

VIII. Executive Session

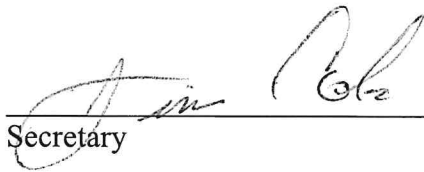
A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to enter into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Personnel. The motion was seconded by Max Morrison, 5 ayes 0 nays, motion carried.

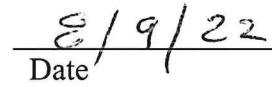
A motion was made by Max Morrison to exit Executive Session and enter into Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Shannon Whitfield, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

Following Executive Session in the regular meeting, a motion was made by Shannon Whitfield that the Development Authority assume the contract that the County currently has with Robert Wardlaw for economic development consulting services at \$1,000 per month from July 1-December 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Max Morrison, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.


Secretary


Date

Minutes prepared by: Executive Director, Stephanie Watkins

*Quarantined due to COVID Exposure