



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 **December 13, 2022**

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 and Executive Director Stephanie Watkins. Others present: see attached sign-in sheet.

II. Invocation given by Shannon Whitfield

III. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Cole, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. October 11, 2022 and November 22, 2022 Special Called Meeting

Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to approve, seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

V. Financial Report

Jim Cole presented the financial reports for October and November. He stated that all invoices have been paid to date with Walker County. He stated the October report reflected the purchase of the additional 100+ acres to expand the Walker County Business & Industrial Park and that the account with Colony Bank had been closed due to the withdrawal of funds to complete the purchase transaction of the additional property. The total account balance as of November 30, 2022 is \$743,005.93.

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to approve, seconded by Shannon Whitfield, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Stephanie Watkins stated that three commercial properties have been added to the available properties database.

Mrs. Watkins stated that since our last regular meeting, we received five new requests for information for various industrial properties throughout the County.

Executive Director Watkins stated that existing industry visits will resume after the first of the year.

Mrs. Watkins stated that the Final Report for the closeout of the REBA Grant is still pending approval.

Lastly, she mentioned that the TVA Workforce Development Grant first quarterly report is due later in the week.

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

VII. FY 2023 Proposed Budget

Shannon Whitfield presented the FY 2023 Proposed Budget for consideration by the Board. He stated that expected revenues would be \$1,976,541.00 and expenditures would be \$1,474,020.00. He also stated that the TVA Workforce Grant is separated out with a total budget of \$106,000.00, this includes the Development Authority's approval to match the grant funds in the amount of \$15,000.00.

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to approve, seconded by Jim Cole, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

VIII. Appointment of Board Members

Chair Andy Arnold stated that the two-year terms of our Members-At-Large, Mark Chandler and Max Morrison will expire at the end of December 2022. He asked if they would be willing to continue to serve on the Walker County Development Authority Board. Both were willing to continue to serve with their terms beginning January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Motion: Shannon Whitfield made a motion to approve, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

IX. Executive Session

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

A motion was made by Mark Chandler to exit Executive Session and enter into Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Cole, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

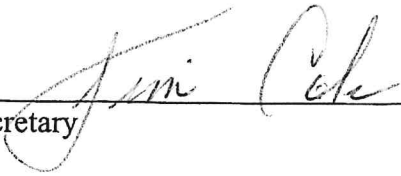
Following Executive Session in the regular meeting, a motion was made by Max Morrison that the Development Authority extend the consulting contract with Robert Wardlaw for a period of six months at \$1,000 per month. The motion was seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

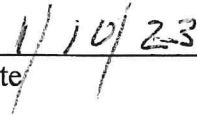
A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to authorize the Executive Director to work with the Board's attorney to draft and sign necessary documents relating to the use of Development Authority owned property in the Walker County Business & Industrial Park by Audia during the construction of their rail expansion project. The motion was seconded by Evitte Parrish, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion was made by Shannon Whitfield to authorize the Walker County Development Authority Chair and Executive Director to sign the Utility Easement with the City of LaFayette for the Roper expansion project. The motion was seconded by Max Morrison, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.


Secretary


Date

Minutes prepared by: Executive Director, Stephanie Watkins