



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 **March 11, 2025**

- I. Call to order at 10:01 a.m. by Andy Arnold**
Present: Chair Andy Arnold, Vice Chair Max Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Cole, Mark Chandler, Evitte Parrish, County Commission Chair Angie Teems (via telephone), Executive Director Stephanie Watkins, and Development Authority Attorney David Gottlieb. Others present: see attached sign-in sheet.
Absent: None
- II. Invocation given by Evitte Parrish**
- III. Approval of the Agenda**
Motion: Mark Chandler made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. February 11, 2025**
Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- V. Financial Report**
Secretary/Treasurer Jim Cole presented the attached financial report as of February 28, 2025.
Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Max Morrison, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- VI. Executive Director's Report**
Executive Director Stephanie Watkins stated that she received two new RFIs and had conducted one existing industry visit. She mentioned Project Purpose was being promoted within the high schools throughout the county and that the program would be held June 2-6. Executive Director Watkins mentioned that she will be attending ECG's Economic Development Summit next week. The application deadline for the Rural Site Development program is at the end of March. Executive Director Watkins stated that she would like the Development Authority to make an application to assist with the development of the Walker County Business Park. The maximum requests could be up to \$2,000,000 with the Walker County Development Authority matching 25% of the award amount.

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to authorize Executive Director Stephanie Watkins to apply for the Rural Site Development funding, seconded by County Commission Chair Angie Teems, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

- VII. Approval of Utility Access within the Right of Way of Walker County Industrial Drive**
A request was made by Comcast to install fiber within the right-of-way of Walker County Industrial Drive to serve a customer within the Walker County Business Park. There was discussion regarding the ease of working with Comcast in the future should the Development Authority need to make changes within the Park that may affect the use of the fiber.

Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to grant the utility access subject to the review by Development Authority Attorney David Gottlieb of the terms of the easement agreement that would be in the best interest of the Development Authority, seconded by Jim Cole, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

- VIII. Authorization to Make Application for Rezone of Parcels 0320 036 - 0320 037 in the Walker County Business Park (former McDaniel property)**

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion authorizing Executive Director Stephanie Watkins to make application for the rezone, seconded by Jim Cole, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

- IX. Board Member Appointments**

Chairman Andy Arnold stated that the City of LaFayette had reappointed him to serve a two-year term on the Walker County Development Authority at their last council meeting. Chairman Arnold recommended that Mark Chandler, Member at Large, be reappointed. Executive Director Stephanie Watkins mentioned that Mr. Chandler's term was set to expire later in the month and therefore needed Board approval for his reappointment.

Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to reappoint Mark Chandler, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried. Mark Chandler did not vote.

- X. Presentations**

No presentations.

- XI. Executive Session**

Chairman Andy Arnold sought a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate and potential litigation.

Motion: Max Morrison made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion: Evitte Parrish made a motion to exit Executive Session and enter into the Regular Meeting, seconded by Mark Chandler, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

- XII. Reconveyance of Real Property to Walker County Government**

After return to the regular meeting, County Commission Chair Angie Teems made a motion to reconvey the Agricultural Center and Mountain Cove Farms properties to Walker County Government because the security deed to the properties has been satisfied, seconded by Evitte Parrish, 5 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.

- XIII. Adjournment**

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

Secretary James Cole

Date 5/13/25

Minutes prepared by: Executive Director, Stephanie Watkins