

Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2022
31 West Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA

Attending: James Addison, Brian Akin, Savonda Turner, Chuck Wright, Janney Sanders, Phyllis Ayers, Jeremy Spradlin, Brittany Ivey and Lois Hylton.

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Mr. Wright led us in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Akin read the confidentiality & conflict of interest statement.

Akin asked for a motion to approve the agenda. [Turner:Addison]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made to approve the February 16, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, [Wright:Turner]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made to approve the February financials as presented, [Addison:Turner]. All in favor; none opposed.

Board Action Items:

Ivey presented budget requests for the City & County and suggested we ask for the same income that we received last year. This will include asking the City to hold back \$50,000 for infrastructure installation for economic projects, [Turner:Wright]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to allow i6 Graphics to take over the website design and maintenance. They had the lowest bid at \$4,500 to redesign the site and \$90.00/month maintenance, [Turner:Addison]. All in favor; none opposed.

The May meeting has been moved to May 11 due to conflict. President Ivey will be at GEDA meetings on the 17th.

A motion was made to set a monthly rental rate of \$1,800/month for the apartment, [Addison:Turner]. All in favor, none opposed. Sark Wire wants to rent it out for at least three months in April as soon as we have the new wall and stairs up to code. We are waiting for two bids on that work.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Project Castle, Centre, Chapstick, QSR are all moving forward. We have added Project Track. NGTC, The Existing: The Chamber of Commerce, NGTC and SCDA served as judges on ASI's continuous improvement competition. In the next year, we hope to develop a continuous improvement competition between all interested local industries. Product Development: Participated in a zoom meeting on new GRAD website as we prepare to start that process.

President's Report on Strategic Objectives:

Workforce: Ivey reported that we are still moving forward with Project Chapstick. A site survey has been conducted. Ivey will be participating in an Employability Skills Training at SCHS where she will be speaking with students about customer service and having a positive community outlook, especially on any social network platform.

Recruitment: The County has agreed to give \$250k of their ARPA funds for installation of trunk lines to serve Lots 24A, 24B and 25 in HBBP. We will try to secure a grant for the remainder of the estimated \$400k cost.

Input from Others:

President Ivey gave a Chamber update in Mrs. Paysen's absence. She reminded everyone that The Mulligan movie premiere tickets are still available, and the Post Legislative lunch on April 7th. Also, the Chamber of Commerce annual awards banquet will be held May 17 and their Golf Classic is scheduled for May 11 at 11:00am.

Phyllis Ayers reported that the County gave all their road workers a \$4.50 per hour raise due to employee retention problems. She shared other industries pay scales are much higher. She also said that everything for Project QSR is under design review and nothing negative on either end. They hope to have needed road work done by June 30.

A motion was made to enter Executive Session at 8:28 a.m. to discuss the future acquisition, sale or lease of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4), [Wright:Turner]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn Executive Session at 9:08 a.m. [Wright:Turner]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 9:08 a.m. [Wright:Turner]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President