

Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2023
20 Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA

Attending: Brian Akin, David Austin, Dennis Bell, Lisa Lawson, Rick Phillips, Janney Sanders, Stacey Miller, Tammy Rauch, Billy Morse, Kevin McCraney, Jessica Waters, Julie Paysen, Jonathan Sangster, Brittany Ivey and Lois Hylton.

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Sanders opened with prayer, Akin led the Pledge of Allegiance & read the confidentiality & conflict of interest statement.

Motion was made to approve the agenda. [Austin:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made to approve the July 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made to approve the July financials as presented, [Lawson:Austin]. All in favor, none opposed.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Project BlackStream could not secure the building they were trying to lease. Project Bras and Project Clear Creek have dropped. Project Castle visited and introduced their project manager to us. He worked with SK Battery and understands the permitting and building process well. Project ECO3 hopes to close on the building they want to purchase in September. Project Jae has purchased 1228 Memorial Drive and is starting renovations. Project Hatchett is an existing industry in Georgia looking to expand. Ivey submitted sites in HBBP. Project Pharma closed on their building last week. Existing Industry: Met with Nifco's new HR Manager and Recruiter. They are struggling with employee retention. Tammy Rauch and Ivey made several suggestions and offered to continue to help them. Ivey has been working with Sark on some logistics issues they have been experiencing. She is planning the industry visits for the Industry Leadership Day. Product Development: WilCorp is ahead of schedule putting in trunk lines and manholes in the industrial park. We are still waiting to learn if we will receive any funding from the Rural Housing Innovation Grant.

President's Report:

Ivey shared a virtual training opportunity available for board members and reminded the board we have funds to cover. Existing Industry: The next quarterly industry lunch & learn is scheduled for September 13. The City, Conty & SCDA will be talking about their strategic plan and getting feedback from the industries represented. Workforce: We are working with the school system to get a Discovery Tour on the calendar. Recruitment: Phillips suggested having a Realtor Round Table to talk to local realtors about properties available and infrastructure challenges, and we can work together to grow our community. Ivey reported that the JDA will be traveling to Atlanta October 3 to present information on our community to project managers.

Input from Others:

Rauch reported that state has new labor exchange system going live next week and shared that the NEGA Employer committee is doing labor law training on Oct. 3 at the Pointe church. Bell said Christian is still working on improving their zoning ordinance. Paysen said tickets available for Chamber's Annual Awards on September 28. She also shared about the Chamber's incubator business grant funding that was received.

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 8:37 a.m. to enter into Executive Session for Discussion of future acquisition, sale or lease of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4) [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn Executive Session at 8:46 a.m., [Austin:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:47 a.m., [Austin:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Attested By:

Brittany W. Ivey, President