

Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024
20 Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA 30577

Attending: Brian Akin, Gail Fry, Lisa Lawson, Rick Phillips, Tara Simmons, Janney Sanders, Kevin McCraney, Christian Hamilton, Fredda Wheeler, Joley Strickland, Jessica Waters, Tammy Rauch, Julie Paysen, Brittany Ivey & Lois Hylton.

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Sanders opened with prayer & Akin led the Pledge of Allegiance & read the Confidentiality & Conflict of interest statement.

A motion was made to approve the agenda, [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made to approve the December 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the December financials as presented, [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

Board Action Items:

Akin welcomed new board members Mayor Fry & Commission Chair Simmons. A motion was made to leave the meeting time at 8 a.m. and revisit changing the time if Simmons had court conflicts, [Simmons:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Ivey reported **Project Castle** is still waiting on liability insurance and then we can close on the bond. Ivey, Ward and Paysen met with **Project Hospitality** developers last month and are hoping for a community visit next month. **Project Import** has looked at two different properties. Ivey reported that **Project Next** has pushed the closing back to the end of May. **Project Pharma** met with Hamilton, Ward, Smith, Deitz to discuss and provide feedback on their building plans.

Existing Industry: Ivey shared that Nifco KTW is exploring their options to sell to a company that would continue to operate at their current location. Ivey shared that WorkForce Strategies hosted an industry tour at Patterson Pump. The tour provided an opportunity for industry leaders in Northeast Georgia to tour other industries in the region. Ivey reported that Cope Closets and Osborne Wood Products had named new CEOs as the current CEOs are looking forward to retiring.

Workforce Development: Ivey shared that she has a call with DCA to discuss the rental rate for the RWHI grant later today and that we should be able to close out the OneGeorgia Grant in the next two months.

President's Report:

Existing Industry: Ivey shared that our next Industry Lunch & Learn with WorkSource Georgia is on January 31. Ivey will be visiting Patterson Pump, PTL, PakPro, Trachte & GM Wood Products with GDEcD & TCSG to talk about state tax incentives and workforce opportunities available to them.

Workforce Development: The December WBL student of the month will be recognized next week. Ivey will be doing a presentation at the end of the month at the GAEL Conference with our school system to talk about our partnership.

Recruit New Industry: Ivey reported on several meetings and interest we have had from housing developers.

Input from Others:

Hamilton reported that the County will have their annual planning retreat on January 26. Wheeler reported that the City's planning conference will be January 22. Strickland reported the hospital will be opening a cardiology program in February. Paysen reported that the Pre-Legislative Coffee was a success and the Post-Legislative Coffee will be in April.

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 8:32 a.m. to enter 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:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:55a.m., [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 a.m., [Lawson:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President