

Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 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, Julie Paysen, Jessica Waters, Tammy Rauch, Joley Strickland, Brittany Ivey & Lois Hylton.

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

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

A motion was made to approve the agenda after moving Executive Session before the Approval of Minutes, [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 7:31 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), [Fry:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 7:50 a.m., [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made to approve the February 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

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

Board Action Items:

A motion was made to authorize the President/CEO to sign the SungEel Inducement Resolution for the REBA Grant, [Simmons:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Ivey reported that **Project Castle** will be in town on April 3. **Project C. Stone** will be in Toccoa to look at different sites next month. SCDA will have a site visit with **Project EK** tomorrow. **Project Next** got approval from GDOT on their plans and are still actively working towards getting a retail contract for their planned development. **Project Pharma** is about a week from submitting their plans to the City for approval. **Project Ship** is a commercial retail considering a location on Big A. **Project Treatment** is now a state project & they are interested in a build-to-suit building on Lot 14.

Existing: Ivey shared that there had been no further news from Nifco KTW on their potential sell. Ivey & Paysen shared about Representative Clyde's small business visits during the two days he was in Stephens County. Ivey sent out Freeport Tax Reminder to existing industries and reported there are several new businesses coming to downtown.

Product Development: Ivey filed all required documents to DCA to receive their \$200,000.00 reimbursement funds.

President's Report:

Ivey reminded the board that is time to update our Strategic Goals & asked them to be looking at potential dates.

Existing: April 17 will be the next Industry Lunch & Learn at SCHS. We will be exploring unique employer partnerships.

Workforce Development: Ivey reported that the third industry tour for the 8th Grade Students was a big success. Thirty-two educators attended this year's Discovery Tour. They heard from the hospital, toured ASI Southeast, GEM Plastics, Osborne Wood Products and Patterson Pump. Several partners, including a new one with the Advancement Academy were formed.

Recruit New Industry: SC Day at the Capitol will be March 26. Paysen and Phillips have coordinated transportation for the 28 community leaders & three students who were approved to page for a state representative. Lunch at the Capitol for the SC delegation, our State Representative & Senator will be sponsored by North Georgia Credit Union.

Input for Others: Paysen reported the Town Hall Meeting is April 15 at the Ritz. Strickland reported the hospital had their first day with Cardiology Saturday and it went great. Hamilton said the County is looking for an In-House Building Inspector. Wheeler said to watch for the events the City will host for the 150th Anniversary & shared April 1 the Boat House at Lake Toccoa will be open.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 a.m., [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President