

Board Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024
20 Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA

Attending: Brian Akin, Lisa Lawson, Rick Phillips, Tara Simmons, Terry Carter, Fredda Wheeler, Christian Hamilton, Caleb Musser, Todd Truelove, Jessica Waters, Janney Sanders, Ellen Spencer & Brittany Ivey.

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

Sanders 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 as presented, [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the May 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

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

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 7:34 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) and Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (6), [Simmons:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:12 a.m., [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

Board Action Items:

A motion was made to accept 2024-2025 budget after taking \$5,000 from the Grad Certification line item and adding it to the salary line item, [Simmons:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Stephens County Board of Commissioners for ownership of 27 N. Pond Street, [Lawson:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

Akin welcomed new full time assistant Ellen Spencer to the team.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Ivey reported that an RFI was submitted for **Project Bronze Sky**. **Project Castle** is making significant progress on their building plans. **Project Council** requested information on sites on Big A Road for a commercial development. Ivey sent sites & GAP reports. **Project C. Stone** will have to fund the additional information they need. Project is at a pause unless they decide if they want to fund those studies. **Project EK & Project Bail** are looking at the Caterpillar building. **Project Fam** a new project has a building under contract but if it falls through SCDA will show potential buildings in town. **Project Fast** is looking for property on Big A road with sewer. Ivey was contacted by an out-of-town realtor with a property under contract looking for a retail partner so Ivey connected the realtors. **Project Pharma** submitted plans but the City sent them back for some changes to be made. **Project Yellow Condor** is still considering our site.

Existing: Janney & Brittany met with Nifco KTW for information about their recent acquisition. Dewtex will celebrate their 20th Anniversary on July 10. Leon Osborne's retirement party is July 13.

Product Development: We are working with Chase West to start utilizing SPLOST dollars to pad ready our two largest sites. We will be doing this in conjunction with our GRAD recertification.

President's Report:

Ivey reported we have met so many of our current strategic goals, it is time to set new ones.

Existing: Ellen to conduct survey to Existing Industry for ideas for lunch & learns.

Workforce Development: Scheduling tours with school system & NGTC in July. Brandon Lounsbury would like to visit industries in the coming July. CTAE would like to have tours specific to programs offered in the school system to provide a better support workforce in the community.

Product Development: We will be updating our website and marketing material in the coming weeks.

Input From Others: County reported that Land Use has been updated in regards to poultry farms and they are still working on RV Parks. Chamber reported that Congressman Clyde was coming July 20th. Other upcoming evens include July 25 Business After Hours with Habersham; September 19 Chamber Awards; October 4 Chicken Que; Dec 16th Christmas Parade.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 a.m., [Phillips:Simmons]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President/CEO