



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF DAWSON COUNTY

Development Authority of Dawson County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2023

Location: Meeting conducted at the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce building, located at 44 Commerce Drive, Dawsonville, GA and simultaneously remote meeting via video conference.

Attendees: Brian Trapnell, Chair; Jere Allen, Vice-Chair; Tony Passarello, Treasurer; Lynn Jackson, Gary Vaughters.

Absent: Dennis Fedoruk, Secretary; Dr. Carroll Turner

Ex-Officio: Dawson County Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Mandy Power.

Guests: Director of Economic Development, Kevin Herrit; Economic Development Director for the GA Ports Authority, Taylor Worley; Economic Development Lead with Moffatt & Nichol, Eli J. Falls

Call to Order. Called to Order at 6:04 pm by Brian Trapnell, Chair.

1. Announcements. None

2. Approval of the advertised Location, Quorum & Attendance. The Chair requested a motion that the meeting was being held in the duly advertised location, a quorum was reached, and board members were in attendance in person or via telephone/video. Confirmation was made that the meeting was submitted to Dawson News & posted. The motion to approve the advertised location, quorum, and attendance was made by Jere Allen and Seconded by Tony Passarello. Passed 5-0. Trapnell, Allen, Passarello, Vaughters, and Jackson were in favor. No discussion. None opposed.

3. Approval of the Agenda. The Chair requested a motion on the draft agenda (previously provided to the Board electronically). Motion to approve the agenda by Gary Vaughters. Seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 5-0. Trapnell, Allen, Passarello, Vaughters, and Jackson were in favor. No discussion. None opposed.

4. Approval of the Minutes. The Chair opened the floor to discuss the regular meeting

minutes of the September 5, 2023, meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. The Chair requested a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was made by Jere Allen to accept September 5, 2023, minutes as written. Gary Vaughters seconded the motion. Passed 5-0. Trapnell, Allen, Passarello, Vaughters, and Jackson were in favor. No discussion. None opposed.

Financial Report. Tony Passarello gave an overview of finances (see attached Balance Sheet & Statements of Revenues and Expenses). Motion made by Jere Allen to accept the October 2023 Financial Report as presented. Motion seconded by Gary Vaughters. Passed 5-0. Trapnell, Allen, Passarello, Vaughters, and Jackson were in favor. No discussion. None opposed.

5. New Business.

A. GA Ports Authority Inland Port Update. Taylor Worley presented a PowerPoint presentation that informed the board of how the new Blueridge Connector inland port (BRC) in Gainesville would work and function. Taylor talked about how an inland port worked and what companies would be shipping through the port at its opening in 2026. The board asked several questions on how the inland port worked and what the difference was between an inland port and a multi-modal facility. Mr. Worley completed taking questions and thanked the board for inviting him to present the BRC update. No action was taken.

B. Port Planning Introduction by Moffett & Nichol: Eli Falls with Moffett & Nichol introduced a PowerPoint presentation about port planning and documents that could help the Development Authority if they decided that companies that use train transportation were one of the priority industries they wished to attract. Mr. Falls demonstrated some of the documentation that was created for Murry County concerning the Appalachian inland port and how that information supported Murry County's efforts to acquire Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) certification. He noted that the information contained in the reports allowed Authorities to answer Request For Information (RFI) faster and more precisely when requested from Site Selection Companies. The board thanked him for the presentation. No action was taken.

C. Support Letter for Dawson County Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP): Director Herrit presented to the board for their consideration a support letter that indicated their support for a request to submit for funding to create a walking and biking trail at the new County Park designed for low intensity active and passive use. Director Herrit indicated that the letter had been signed and was forwarded to the County for inclusion after consultation with officers of the Board. However, due to time constraints for submittal and the Regular standing board meeting, staff lacked sufficient time to present this to the entire board for approval before the county must apply. The board approved the support letter with a vote of 5-0 in favor of the letter. Jere Allen made the motion, and Lynn Jackson seconded it.

6. Old Business.

A, ETC Project Update: Jason Smith, via email, stated that they continue to market to customers in the service area and sign on new customers. Jason indicated they only had a few more customers on their list to connect and would be looking to submit the final reimbursement request by the end of 2023.No motions were made.

B. Grant Workshop with Retail Strategies: Director Herrit gave a brief summary of the upcoming Workshop with Retail Strategies and Valdosta State. He directed the board to review the documentation about the workshop included in the agenda packet. He asked if anyone would like to attend the workshop in the last vacant set to let President and CEO Mandy Power or himself know before the December 12th workshop date. No action was needed for the workshop.

7. Economic Development Report. President and CEO Ms. Power presented an Economic Development update. No motions were made.

8. Ex-Officio Reports. President and CEO Ms. Power updated the board on events and initiatives that the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce scheduled over the next few months. No action was taken, and no motions were made.

9. Executive Session. No executive session was required.

10. Adjournment. The motion to adjourn was presented by Gary Vaughters and seconded by Jere Allen. All attendees were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Fedoruk, Secretary - Development Authority of Dawson County