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# DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

OF DAWSON COUNTY

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## Development Authority of Dawson County Meeting Minutes April 28, 2020

**Location:** Remote meeting via video conference due to Covid 19 Pandemic.

**Attendees:** Tony Passarello, Chair; Calvin Byrd, Vice-Chair (joined during Approval of the Financials); Jere Allen, Treasurer; Tara Hardwick, Secretary; Mike Ball, Brian Trapnell, Gary Coates; and Ex-Officios: Brooke Anderson, Chris Gaines, & Christie Moore. Betsy McGriff attending as Director of Economic Development.

**Absent:** Ex-officio Damon Gibbs.

**Guests:** Judd Hughes, Garrett Boden (UGA), Brian Landers (UGA), Nick Harbin (UGA), Stephen Durham (UGA), Ron Bertasi (GIS Webtech), Lynn Patterson (3 Points Planning), Ryan Thompson (Thomas & Hutton) & Matt Dunagin (Thomas & Hutton).

**1. Call to Order.** Called to Order at 9:00 a.m. by Tony Passarello, Chair.

**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 via telephone. Confirmation was made that the meeting was submitted to Dawson News & posted. Motion to approve advertised location, quorum and attendance was made by Jere Allen. Seconded by Brian Trapnell. Passed 6-0. Allen, Ball, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello, and Trapnell in favor. 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 was made by Mike Ball. Motion was seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 6-0. Allen, Ball, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello, and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

**4. Approval of the Minutes.** The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the regular meeting minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. Motion by Jere Allen to accept the February 4, 2020 minutes as written. Brian Trapnell seconded the motion. Passed 6-0. Allen, Ball, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello, and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

**5. Approval of the Financials.** Jere Allen presented a general overview of the financial statements. Jere said that the audit had been completed and submitted. Results will be presented at the next meeting. Motion by Mike Ball to accept the DADC April 28, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Seconded by Gary Coates. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello, and Trapnell in favor.

**6. Special Presentations:**

- A. University of Georgia College of Engineering presented their Senior Capstone Project.** 7 sites on Successful Way industrial area were studied for feasibility. 3 students, led by Dr. Durham, recommended developing pad 4 first, storing excess on pad 5 for future use. Potential yield of approximately 200 jobs, increase in residents and increase in tax income.
- B. GIS Webtech.** Demonstration given of Forsyth County (Forward Forsyth). Includes property search with filtering capabilities. Provides realistic drive times. Pulls data from ESRI. Also provides workforce & demographic data.

**7. Old Business.**

- A. Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Update.** Included in Betsy McGriff's Economic Development Report.

**8. New Business. - none**

**9. Economic Development Report.** Betsy McGriff gave a Q2 projects update, as well as an update on existing business engagement efforts, including networking and prospect development, workforce development, LOST & SPLOST updates and housing data (see attached report). The North GA Premium Outlet Mall is scheduled to reopen on 5/1/20 (it closed due to Covid 19 on 3/18/20). Strategic planning is on target to present in June to Development Authority (ARC Grant). Betsy & Christie Moore mentioned that GA Trend Magazine is to feature Dawson County in their May issue. Christie added that NE GA Medical System will not break ground on the new hospital in Dahlonega in May as planned- date TBD. Christie stated that we need more participation in the 2020 Census in Dawson County- currently at only 46% response rate. The impact of Covid 19 Pandemic on businesses & employment is not yet known. Recovery tasks forces are being put in place. No motions were made.

**10. Ex-Officio Reports.**

**A. EWSA – Brooke Anderson.** Reservoir project slowed slightly due to pandemic. Most employees of EWSA are working virtually. No motions were made.

**B. School Board – Christie Moore** reported for Damon Gibbs that the school system is hoping to provide updates in the next few weeks about graduation dates, etc. 2000-5000 meals are being dropped off to students daily at their homes due to pandemic. No motions were made.

**C. Chamber of Commerce – see Economic Development Report.** No motions were made.

**D. County Government** – Chris Gaines said that LOST & SPLOST collections were down slightly due to pandemic; we will likely see a larger impact in next month's report. Overall, the County is healthy. The County is looking at 2 plans depending on if TSPLOST passes (or doesn't). No motions were made.

**11. Adjournment.** The Chair opened the floor to entertain a motion to adjourn the April 28, 2020 regular meeting. Mike Ball made a motion to adjourn the April 28, 2020 regular meeting. Brian Trapnell seconded the motion. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello, and Trapnell in favor. None opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 A.M.

Attachments to these minutes on file: Agenda, Financial Reports, Economic Development Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Hardwick, Secretary