

**Development Authority of Dawson County**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 27, 2020**

**Location:** Meeting conducted at Dawson County Chamber of Commerce, 44 Commerce Dr., Dawsonville, GA & simultaneously remote meeting via video conference due to Covid19 Pandemic.

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

**Absent:** None.

**Guest:** Additional guests attending via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order.** Called to Order at 9:01 a.m. by Tony Passarello, Chair.
2. **Announcements.** Chairman Passarello added to the agenda Executive Session.
3. **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. Motion to approve advertised location, quorum and attendance was made by Brian Trapnell. Seconded by Mike Ball. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
4. **Approval of the Agenda.** The Chair requested a motion on the draft agenda (previously provided to the Board electronically). Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Approval of the Minutes from August 25, 2020 Special Called Meeting and Executive Session prior to adjournment was made by Calvin Byrd. Motion was seconded by Brian Trapnell. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
5. **Approval of the Minutes.** The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the regular meeting minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. Motion by Brian Trapnell to accept the July 28, 2020 minutes as written. Jere Allen seconded the motion. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the meeting minutes of the August 25, 2020 Special Called Meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. Motion by Brian Trapnell to accept the August 25, 2020 minutes as written. Gary Coates seconded the motion. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

## Approval of the Financials. Jere Allen presented a general overview of the financial statements. Motion by Calvin Byrd to accept the DADC October 27, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Seconded by Mike Ball. Passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

**7.**  **Old Business.**

1. **Kroger Bond Update**. Per Christie Moore: a workflow process document has been created with the help of our attorneys. This clear timeline was shared with the tax assessor. We are on target with the timeline. No motions were made.
2. **Economic Development Administration Grant Update.** Betsy McGriff applied for a $400k grant to use towards the Hightower paving project. Not approved due to funds being exhausted. The need for a backup funding source was discussed. No motions were made.
3. **Board Terms Review.** Chairman Passarello stated that the Board of Commissioners approved the extension of DADC Board terms (see attached letter). No motions were made.

**8. New Business.**

* 1. None.

**9. Economic Development Report.** Christie Moore and Betsy McGriff gave an overview, including LOST/SPLOST updates, as well as a workforce update (see attached report). Chairman Passarello congratulated Betsy McGriff on $20,000 grant money towards greenway Bicycle/walk paths along Dawson Forest, etc. Workgroup subcommittee: Brian Trapnell, Tony Passarello, Jere Allen and others will develop next steps in Integrated Accountability Agreement/Strategic Plan. No motions were made.

## 10. Ex-Officio Reports.

* 1. **EWSA –** Brooke Anderson reported continued strong growth in Dawson County., with plenty of capacity available. The reservoir is on track, despite adjustments to 1st quarter of 2025 due to Covid 19. No motions were made.
  2. **School Board –** Damon Gibbs said that the school system lost 10 weeks last school year due to Covid 19, but in person schooling is going very well for this year. Meal costs have been waived by the federal government for the remainder of the year for all students. No motions were made.
  3. **Chamber of Commerce –** see Economic Development Report. No motions were made.
  4. **County Government –** Chris Gaines said that public hearings were just completed for the budget process. Planning & Zoning has been inundated & requested additional staffing. Impact fees were addressed. No motions were made.

**11. Executive Session.** Motion was made for Executive Session at 10:45 am by Brian

Trapnell. Motion seconded by Jere Allen. Motion passed 7-0. Allen, Ball, Byrd, Coates,

Hardwick, Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

Motion was made at 11:46 am by Brian Trapnell to end Executive Session. Motion

was seconded by Jere Allen. Motion passed 6-0. Allen, Ball, Coates, Hardwick,

Passarello and Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

## 12. Adjournment. The Chair opened the floor to entertain a motion to adjourn the October 27, 2020 regular meeting. Mike Ball made a motion to adjourn the 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 11:49 A.M.

Attachments to these minutes on file:Agenda, 7/28/20 Meeting Minutes, 8/25/20 Special Called Meeting Minutes, Financial Reports, letter from Dawson County Board of Commissioners addressing extending DADC Board terms, Economic Development Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Hardwick, Secretary