



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF DAWSON COUNTY

Development Authority of Dawson County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021

Location: Meeting conducted at Dawson County Board of Education Professional Development Center, Dawsonville, GA & simultaneously remote meeting via video conference due to Covid19 Pandemic.

Attendees: Tony Passarello, Chair, Tara Hardwick, Secretary, Jere Allen, Treasurer, Gary Coates, Dennis Fedoruk, Brian Trapnell, and Ex-Officios: Mandy Power, Brooke Anderson, Damon Gibbs, Chris Gaines (arrived during Financial Report), Bobbi Larson. Betsy McGriff attending as Director of Economic Development.

Absent: Calvin Byrd, Vice Chair.

Guests: Bobbi Larson, UNG, Ryan Thompson (Thomas & Hutton), Kroger Team (Rita Williams, Taylor Spears, Erica Pontius), Southeastern Company (Paul Xhajanka, Rhodes Seeger, Tyler Martin). See attached sign in sheet.

1. **Call to Order.** Called to Order at 9:02 A.M. by Tony Passarello, Chair.
2. **Announcements.** Chair Passarello stated that the Economic Development Presentation was distributed to be reviewed before the meeting. Bobbi Larson of UNG introduced as new Ex-Oficio.
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 Jere Allen. Seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
4. **Ex-Officio Reports.**
 - A. **School Board** – Dr. Gibbs reported that School system is currently working on the next year’s budget. School has been open as normal since August. Graduation will be May 27, 2021 (7pm) at the high school stadium. No motions were made.

B. County Government – Chris Gaines said that Denise Farr has been hired as the new Public Works Director to replace David McKee. Moratorium on rezoning still in effect. County is working on the issue with the city regarding SPLOST allocations. No motions were made.

C. Chamber of Commerce – Mandy Power reminded all that the annual Chamber Gala is set for 5/1/21. Annual Chamber golf tournament will be 8/16/21. No motions were made.

D. EWSA – Brooke Anderson reported continued strong growth in Dawson County. The reservoir will go to bid in October 2021 & construction will begin in January 2022. No motions were made.

E. UNG- Bobbi Larson posed the question of how best to partner for Economic Development.

5. **Dawson County Trail Plan Presentation.** Ryan Thompson of Thomas & Hutton presented the Master Trail Plan (Greenway & Trail Master Plan (see attached)). Will add approval and adoption to the agenda for next Board meeting after Board has had adequate time for review. No motions were made.
6. **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 Executive Session at the end of the meeting prior to adjournment, as well as amending to move New Business to immediately follow agenda approval & adding Review of Chamber Services Agreement to Old Business was made by Jere Allen. Seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
7. **Approval of the Minutes.** The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the regular meeting minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. Motion by Jere Allen to accept the January 26, 2021 minutes as written. Dennis Fedoruk seconded the motion. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the meeting minutes of the March 23, 2021 Special Called Meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. Motion by Gary Coates to accept the March 23, 2021 minutes as written. Dennis Fedoruk seconded the motion. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
8. **Financial Report.** Jere Allen presented a general overview of the financial statements. Motion by Dennis Fedoruk to accept the DADC April 27, 2021 Financial Reports as presented. Seconded by Gary Coates. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
Motion made by Gary Coates to adopt the Reserve Fund Proposal (see attached) with amounts to be determined. Motion seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

9. Old Business.

A. Kroger Bond Update. We are on target with commitments. No motions were made.

B. Business & Industry Park Site Development Update. (Executive Session).

C. Peaks of Dawsonville Update. Construction is set to begin in 6 weeks. No motions were made.

D. West Hightower Improvement Update. Awaiting review by new County Planner. No motions were made.

E. Strategic Plan Update. Betsy McGriff reviewed Strategic Plan. No motions were made.

F. Chamber Services Agreement. Renewed in December 2021. Will add to agenda for review at next meeting. No motions made.

10. New Business.

A. Kroger Parcel Subdivision. Attorneys (see sign in sheet) discussed extracting 6,000 sq. ft. parcel from document. Motion made by Jere Allen to allow to move forward with preparing documents to extract parcel from Bond document. Motion seconded by Gary Coates. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello in favor. None opposed. Trapnell absent.

B. Adjustment of FY2021 Meeting Dates. Motion to adjust meeting schedule from quarterly to every other month with meeting called to order at 8am by Jere Allen. Motion seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello in favor. None opposed. Trapnell absent.

11. Executive Session. Motion was made to enter Executive Session at 10:57 A.M. by Jere Allen. Motion seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Motion passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, & Passarello in favor. None opposed. Trapnell absent.

Motion made by Dennis Fedoruk to approve March 23, 2021 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion seconded by Gary Coates. Motion passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, & Passarello in favor. None opposed. Trapnell absent.

Motion was made at 11:44 A.M. by Jere Allen to end Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Motion passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, & Passarello in favor. None opposed. Trapnell absent.

12. Adjournment. The Chair opened the floor to entertain a motion to adjourn the April 27, 2021 meeting. Gary Coates made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Fedoruk seconded the motion. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, and Passarello in favor. None opposed. Trapnell absent. Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 A.M.

Attachments to these minutes on file: Sign in sheet, Greenway Trail Master Plan Document, Financial Report, Reserve Fund Proposal, Economic Development Update.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Hardwick, Secretary