



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF DAWSON COUNTY

Development Authority of Dawson County
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2021

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

Attendees: Tony Passarello, Chair, Brian Trapnell, Vice-Chair, Tara Hardwick, Secretary, Jere Allen, Treasurer, Dennis Fedoruk, Gary Coates and Ex-Officios: Mandy Power, Brooke Anderson, & Damon Gibbs. Betsy McGriff attending as Director of Economic Development.

Absent: Calvin Byrd, Bobbi Larson, Chris Gaines.

Guests: Treadwell Syfan, attorney, Jason Smith, Ellijay Telephone Company.

- 1. Call to Order.** Called to Order at 8:03 A.M. by Tony Passarello, Chair.
- 2. Announcements.** None.
- 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 Gary Coates. Seconded by Brian Trapnell. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & 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 American Rescue Plan Funding Strategies & Support/Racing Hall of Fame under New Business, Worldwide Dr. Signage under New Business by Brian Trapnell. Seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.
- 5. Economic Development Report.** See attached report electronically provided in advance to the Board. No motions made.

6. Approval of the Minutes. The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the regular meeting minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting, as previously provided to the Board electronically. Motion by Dennis Fedoruk to accept the June 22, 2021 minutes as written. Brian Trapnell seconded the motion. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

7. Financial Report. Jere Allen presented a general overview of the financial statements. Motion by Gary Coates to accept the DADC August 24, 2021 Financial Reports as presented. Seconded by Brian Trapnell. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

8. Annual Audit Review. Amanda Wilson, Audit Partner, Bates & Carter. See report (no issues/clean audit). Motion to accept the 2020 audit report made by Gary Coates. Motion seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

9. Ex-Officio Reports.

A. School Board – Dr. Gibbs reported that the school system is now in day 13 of the new school year, with enrollment up 5% at 3800 students. There is still ample available space for growth. Handling Covid by encouraging masks. No motions were made.

B. EWSA – Brooke Anderson reported 16% of staff out with Covid, which may result in being forced to close the lobby again. Government funds available & EWSA will apply by 8/31/21. No motions were made.

C. County Government – Chris Gaines absent. No motions were made.

D. Chamber of Commerce – Mandy Power reminded all that Business After Hours will be tonight. Annual Chamber golf tournament was a huge success. Youth Leadership kickoff will be 8/27/21. September member luncheon will feature Dr. Gibbs, School Superintendent, as guest speaker. Sunflower Run will be 10/16/21. No motions were made.

E. UNG- Bobbi Larson absent. No report. No motions made.

10. Old Business.

A. Business & Industry Park Site Development. Etowah Bluffs Development Fiscal & Economic Impact Analysis: Motion to accept the proposal from Georgia Tech’s Center for Economic Development Research in the amount of \$8300 to be completed by 4th quarter 2021 made by Gary Coates. Motion seconded by Dennis Fedoruk. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

B. Chamber Services Agreement Roadmap. Mandy Power presented graphics of the Service Agreement Process, Hierarchy Chart & 2021-22 Service Agreement Roadmap. No motions were made.

11. New Business.

A. Approve Incubator. Motion made by Gary Coates to approve contract with GA Tech to perform the feasibility analysis of the establishment of a business & innovation hub in Dawson County not to exceed DADC portion of \$15,000 without majority additional vote by Board. Motion seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 6-0. Allen Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

B. Water Line Easement for neighboring development. (see booklet)- Motion made by Tara Hardwick to grant the easement requested by Kilough Ventures, LLC to EWSA for easement to extend & relocate existing water line adjacent to Chamber of Commerce property (previously approved by Chamber Board of Directors). Motion seconded by Brian Trapnell. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

C. SPLOST Disbursement Strategy & MOU. Proposal to allocate & disburse \$2,000,000 funding. Motion made by Gary Coates to take MOU to Board of Commissioners & get commitment for payments. Motion seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

Motion to take 10 minute recess from 9:40am-9:50am made by Brian Trapnell. Motion seconded by Gary Coates. Passed 6-0. Allen, Coates, Fedoruk, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. None opposed.

Motion to reconvene (9:50am) made by Jere Allen. Motion seconded by Gary Coates. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. Fedoruk absent. None opposed.

D. American Rescue Plan Funding Strategies & Support:

ETC: Motion made by Brian Trapnell to approve the application for American Rescue Plan Broadband Funding in partnership with Ellijay Telephone Company (ETC). Motion seconded by Jere Allen. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. Fedoruk absent. None opposed.

EWSA- Sewer Expansion, EWSA- Water Expansion: Motion made by Gary Coates to approve the issuance of letters of support for American Rescue Funds from DADC to EWSA for Etowah River Sewer Extension Project & also North Dawson Water Main Extension Project. Brian Trapnell seconded the motion. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. Fedoruk absent. None opposed.

Racing Hall of Fame: motion made by Gary Coates to approve issuance of letter of support for American Rescue Funds to Racing Hall of Fame. Seconded by Brian Trapnell. Motion passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello, & Trapnell in favor. Fedoruk absent. None opposed.

E. Worldwide Signage Proposal: Motion made to approve Chair's authority to resolve issue of squatter in RV on Worldwide Dr., starting with installing signage made by Brian Trapnell. Motion seconded by Gary Coates. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. Fedoruk absent. None opposed.

F. Economic Development Director Search Process: see "Collaborative hiring process outline", "timeline" & "Filling the position" in meeting packet. No motions made.

G. Executive Session: Postponed.

12. Adjournment. The Chair opened the floor to entertain a motion to adjourn the August 24, 2021 meeting. Tara Hardwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jere Allen seconded the motion. Passed 5-0. Allen, Coates, Hardwick, Passarello & Trapnell in favor. Fedoruk absent. None opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

Attachments to these minutes on file: Board Meeting Packet, Sign in sheet, Economic Development Update, June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, Financial Report, 2020 Audit Report, Agenda Item Summaries, Intergovernmental Agreement regarding SPLOST, Broadband Public Private Partnership application.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Hardwick, Secretary