

**JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF  
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**January 26, 2015**

**The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday January 26, 2015 at Casa Grande restaurant in Hartwell, Georgia at 6:00 pm.**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Cleveland. He welcomed guests Kathy Papa, Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Stami Williams, Senator Perdue's office and Lyn Allen.**

**Members present were: Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Greg Roach, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Also present: Economic Developers Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin; Attorney Walter Gordon, Treasurer Jack Edmunds and M. S. Smith, Secretary.**

**He recognized the following re-appointments to the authority:**

|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Roy Crocker and Vernon Edwards</b> | <b>Hart County</b>     |
| <b>Don Foster and Greg Roach</b>      | <b>Stephens County</b> |

**Franklin County will make the appointments at a later date.**

**The minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2014 were approved with the correction of noting Kathy Papa is with the Department of Community Affairs rather than the Department of Labor. This action was taken on a motion by Mayor Owens, seconded by Mr. Foster and approved unanimously.**

**Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary as of December 31, 2014. On a motion by Mr. Cape and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the report was unanimously accepted.**

**Mr. Martin reported that the Broadband project is complete with no plans for future projects due to lack of available funding.**

**Mr. Cleveland reported that the landscape project for the entrance to Gateway I was put out for bid. Two bids were very close and both entities have been approached regarding a partnership on this project.**

**Mr. Cleveland informed the authority that the request for the Joint Development Authority to sell acreage at Gateway I to the Hart County Industrial Building Authority is being withdrawn at this time.**

**Mr. Dye talked about the recent announcement of Haering USA Inc. coming to Hart County bringing 400 jobs within five years and 800 in ten years. Nine hires have already been made and these individuals will leave for training in Germany in February. Other interest in Hart County is still active.**

**Mr. Dye reported he had recently attended a conference at the University of Georgia, Terry College of Business. He learned that Georgia outpaces the nation in economic development and a good economic forecast was highlighted. He will be attending the GEDA legislative luncheon on Tuesday January 27.**

**He is still in conversation with Franklin County regarding sewer upgrade at the Gateway Parks. Chairman Cleveland commended Mayor Owens and Gary Fesperman on their support of this initiative.**

**Mr. Martin shared sad news of Caterpillar's announcement that they will close their facility in Stephens in approximately two years. They currently employ 118 people.**

**He reported that project activity to date is strong and shared some statistics to this point. He commended Hart County on the Haering announcement and the effect it will have for North Ga Tech and others.**

**Mr. Foster reported on the highway project scheduled for completion in May 20, 2016.**

**Mr. Martin announced that <sup>Russell</sup> McMurray from Lavonia (?) has been named Commissioner of Department of Transportation.**

**He also reported that Toccoa now owns two charging stations for electric vehicles.**

**At this time, 6:30 pm, the meeting broke for dinner and the invocation was given by Vernon Cape.**

**When the meeting resumed, Attorney Gordon shared that accounting procedures are under review regarding incentives for new business and could go into effect for 2016.**

**Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs said Annaka Woodruff has been appointed program manager for ARC.**

**Stami Williams of Senator Perdue's office gave a brief report on current happenings in the legislature.**

**Mayor Owens reported that Lavonia is getting a new Bojangles and that the new hotel completion is running a little behind schedule.**

**The next meeting was announced for April 27, 2015 in Stephens County.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.**

**M. S. Smith  
Secretary**