

JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES

Minutes of Meeting

January 23, 2017

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday, January 23, 2017 at J Peters Restaurant in Lavonia.

Members attending were: Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Brian James, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Greg Roach and Dean Scarborough. Also present: Economic Developers, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin; Attorneys Andrea Grant and Walter Gordon; Jack Edmunds and M. S. Smith, Secretary. Guests were: Andrew Seaver, Senator Perdue's Office; Danette Smith, Georgia Department of Labor; and Tonya Powers, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. He welcomed guests and called on Vernon Cape to give the invocation.

The minutes of the October 24, 2016 minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Foster.

Ms. Smith presented a financial summary as of December 31, 2016. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Scarborough.

The audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 had been distributed at the last meeting. Chairman Cleveland called for a motion to accept this audit. On a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Leard, the audit was unanimously accepted.

Chairman Cleveland recognized the following re-appointments to the authority:

Hart County	Doug Cleveland and Bill Leard
Stephens County	Bob Evans and Dean Scarborough

Franklin County has not re-appointed members at this time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPER REPORTS

Tonya Powers reported for Mr. Ginn in his absence that the water and sewer is completed in the new industrial park and roads will be complete soon. She reported that Bosal of Lavonia has been sold but operations will remain the same,

Mr. Dye reported that unemployment in Hart County is 5.2 percent. He said state supported activity is healthy and he is seeing some diversity in interest.

The Linde+Wiemann construction at Gateway II is complete and equipment is being installed. A grand opening is planned for the spring bringing 50 new jobs.

He reported on progress at Haering.

Mr. Martin reported a somewhat strong 2016 with approximately 300 jobs created. He reported on new leadership rotation in the county for 2017.

Mr. Martin reported that Harbor Freight has located in the old Fred's location and that Toccoa Clinic has been purchased by North Georgia Physicians Group.

Danette Smith, Georgia Department of Labor told the group that this region has the lowest unemployment rate in the state.

Andrew Seaver made brief comments on activity from Senator Perdue's office.

Tonya Powers reported on the various committees Mr. Ginn is serving on and that he is chairing the Natural Resources Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

M. S. Smith
Secretary