

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

**Minutes of Meeting**

**April 25, 2016**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties held the quarterly meeting on April 25, 2016 at 6:00 at J Peters Grill in Lavonia, Georgia.

Members present were: Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Brian James, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Greg Roach, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Others present were Economic Developer Frank Ginn; Attorney Walter Gordon; Jack Edmunds; Kathy Papa, Georgia Department of Community Affairs; Amy Turner, Office of Senator Isakson; Andrew Seaver, Office of Senator Perdue; Tonya Powers, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Ilka McConnell, Director of Hart County Archway Partnership and M. S. Smith, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and Jack Edmunds gave an invocation.

The minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Edwards.

Ms. Smith presented a financial summary as of March 31, 2016. On a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Leard, this summary was accepted. A copy is attached.

Chairman Cleveland appointed a nominating committee of Vernon Edwards, Ralph Owens and Bob Evans to propose a slate of officers at the July meeting.

Attorney Gordon reported that TI Automotive has paid the debt on their land and building. He asked the authority to ratify the conveyance of the land and building to them. This passed on a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Owens.

Attorney Gordon recommended that the Chairman of the Joint Development Authority be given authority to sign Memorandums of Understanding as relates to the issuance of bonds of new projects in negotiation. On a motion by Mr. Crocker and seconded by Mayor Owens, this passed.

Attorney Gordon explained that due to the schedule of quarterly meetings, there are times that action needs to be taken pertaining to taxation methods in new project activity. He recommended that the chairman be given negotiating authority in these situations that pertain to Gateway I only. Mr. Edwards made the motion and Mayor Owens seconded. This motion passed.

**Dean Scarborough reported for Tim Martin on activity in Stephens County. He stated that project activity is slow and the hotel project has been put on hold. He reported that new companies are doing well as is existing industry. He stated that the highway 17 project has been given a 142 day extension and that a search for a new industrial park site is underway.**

**In Mr. Dye's absence, Bill Leard reported that overall activity continues to be healthy but somewhat reduced over last quarter. Hart County's Job Tax Credit Status changed from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in February of 2016. Linde+Wiemann is moving quickly with construction of their facility and completion is targeted for June/July. Haring anticipates construction to begin in July.**

**The Sewer Expansion Project with the City of Lavonia continues to an important project for the long-term viability of the Gateway Parks.**

**Preparation for the JDA's annual presentation in Atlanta to GRC should begin soon with a May/June time frame.**

**Mr. Ginn brought the group up to date on the Elberton to Toccoa rail line project.**

**Mr. Ginn spoke about the opportunities an inland port in this region would present and urged the JDA to offer support.**

**Amy Turner of Senator Isakson's office and Andrew Seaver of Senator Perdue's office highlighted activity in their offices and the legislature.**

**Kathy Papa of the Department of Community Affairs announced some workshops to be held in the region soon.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.**

**M. S. Smith  
Recording Secretary**