

JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF  
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES

Minutes of Meeting

July 25, 2016

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday, July 25, 2016 at *The Table* in Hartwell, Georgia.

Members attending were: Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Brian James, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Also present were: Economic Developers Dwayne Dye, Frank Ginn and Tim Martin; Attorneys Andrea Grant and Walter Gordon; Jack Edmunds and Secretary M. S. Smith. Guests were Bill Fogerty, Daniela Perry, Senator Isakson's Office, Andrew Seaver, Senator Perdue's Office, Dr. Eddie Mienie, North Georgia College and Kathy Papa, Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. Mr. Dwayne Dye gave an invocation. Chairman Cleveland welcomed everyone and introduced guests.

The minutes of the April 25, 2016 meeting were approved following a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Foster.

Ms. Smith presented the financial summary as of June 30, 2016. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Mr. Leard and seconded by Mr. Cape.

Mr. Edwards reported for the nominating committee and presented the following slate of officers:

Doug Cleveland	Chairman
Bill Leard	Corporate Secretary
M. S. Smith	Treasurer and Recording Secretary

Mr. Scarborough made a motion to close nominations, Mr. Foster seconded this motion and this slate of officers was accepted by acclamation.

Chairman Cleveland recommended the appointment of The Gordon Law firm as legal counsel to the authority. On a motion by Mr. Leard and seconded by Mr. Edwards, this recommendation was approved.

Chairman Cleveland recommended the appointment of Burch, Crooms & Company, LLP as auditing firm for the authority. On a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Leard, this recommendation was approved.

Chairman Cleveland reported on a meeting with Williams and Associates regarding engineering work at the Gateway sites. When a need arises, they have agreed to furnish engineering advice at no charge, up to a limited number of hours each month. Also, we would agree to consider them on future projects that exceed these hours. Mr. Leard made a motion to accept their offer to consult at no cost, Mayor Owens seconded this and it passed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS REPORTS

Mr. Ginn

- Gave an update on the rail line project
- Discussed the advantage of an inland port for this area
- Reported new 150 acre industrial park at exit 166

Mr. Martin

- Project activity still slow but several expansions underway
- GA Hwy 17 should be fully complete in September
- Sanitation and sewer project groundbreaking August 1
- Recent project managers meeting was very successful

Mr. Dye

- Good attendance at recent GA resource center meeting and this JDA commended
- Attended annual Good News Gathering at Chateau Elan with Mr. Leard
- Hart County unemployment below 5% and has moved from Tier 1 to Tier 2
- Sewer expansion project still underway in Lavonia
- Linde+Wiemann grand opening during week of October 14
- Grading at Haering site should begin in October

Daniela Perry, Office of Senator Isakson and Andrew Seaver, Office of Senator Perdue both gave legislative updates from the office they represent.

Dr. Eddie Mienie, Associate Vice President of Economic and Community Engagement at the University of North Georgia, Gainesville Campus, made brief comments regarding programs at their school.

Kathy Papa, Georgia Department of Community Affairs commended this JDA for their work. She also updated the authority on several grants in progress.

Mr. Ginn brought up the possibility of bringing Elbert County into this authority. Several issues were discussed and it was reported that they are already part of a joint authority. No action was taken.

Attorney Gordon asked if the annual public notification of these meetings appeared in the newspapers in Franklin and Stephens Counties. Mr. Ginn and Mr. Martin will follow up on this.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

M. S. Smith  
Recording Secretary