

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
February 12th, 2025

Present

Jason Dunn
Justin Smith
Hal Wiley
Jason Holt
Lawton Tinley
Corey Gibbs

Absent

Hampton Raulerson

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Melissa Dark
Kathy Young

Chairman, Lawton Tinley called the February 12th, 2025 meeting to order at 12:17 pm. He opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the January 2025 meeting were reviewed. Corey Gibbs made a motion to approve. Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

No financial report was provided due to the City of Fitzgerald is finalizing the the close out FY 2024. The report will be given at the March meeting.

Executive director, Jason Dunn gave the following report:

Product Development/Property Acquisition/Building and Land:

- Peachtree Business Park construction has begun.
- New signage is needed for the Forward Fitzgerald GRAD site. Dunn will get quotes for the sign and present it at the next board meeting.
- The 3.5 acre sale of land to Greg Mercier has closed and the proceeds have been received.
- Dunn shared a residential subdivision conceptual drawing for the Evergreen Rd tract with the board for consideration of pursuing funding through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Rural Housing Initiative to build out a subdivision for single-family housing.
 - Mayor Holt asked if the idea was birthed from the Georgia Tech housing study. Dunn confirmed that it was. Mayor Holt also stated that should we move forward with this idea that we ensure that the road is built to proper standards.

Workforce Development:

- Dunn gave the board an update on FLEX and reminded them of the March 21st finals at FHSCCA.
- Rooster City Robotics sponsored by a financial gift from Millex will be competing in the VEX Robotics World Championship

Retainment/Recruitment/Existing Industry

- Mana Nutrition- Mana is working through contract issues with USAID. They received a “stop-order” but it has been rescinded
- NTI Limited’s building is continuing to progress

- Project Pringles - Dunn provided the board with an update on this project. The prospects have made 2 tours of Fitzgerald and are considering locating on the Forward Fitzgerald GRAD site though our engineers are telling us the site is probably too small for the project. Dunn is procuring other sites in the community to present to them.
 - In the update, Dunn presented workforce data to the board that showed the inflow and outflow of workers who live in Ben Hill County.
- Turf Solutions is moving quickly with their new building and has inquired about purchasing an additional 3 acres +/- in Hwy 319 Business Park

Other Business

- Dunn provided the board with an update on the Southern Georgia Regional Commission tour and how well it went.
- In a final order of business, Dunn asked Corey Gibbs to give the board a presentation on establishing a line of credit for the Development Authority as it would give the Authority increased liquidity when funding major projects. The line will be backed by the CD's the Authority has at Community Bank.
- After the presentation, the board moved to open a line of credit with Community Bank. Justin Smith made the motion and Lawton Tinley seconded the motion. Mayor Holt, Corey Gibbs, and Commission Chairman Wiley abstained from the vote.

Chairman Tinley gave final words and congratulated the Chamber on an excellent annual meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Dark