

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

Present

Jason Dunn
Justin Smith
Hal Wiley
Lawton Tinley
Corey Gibbs

Absent

Jason Holt

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Christine Cook
Kathy Young
Hampton Raulerson

Chairman, Lawton Tinley called the March 12, 2025 meeting to order at 12:23 pm. He opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Christina Justice presented the financials for January & February 2025. Debt line item for \$7175 should be for the Mill Tech Park - maintenance/upkeep. This is an annual expense. Corey Gibbs made a motion to approve. Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive director, Jason Dunn gave the following report:

Product Development/Property Acquisition/Building and Land

- Construction on Peachtree Business Park has begun. Contractors have been instructed to pile topsoil in the back of the property to be used as needed.
- New signage for the Forward Fitzgerald GRAD site at the corner of Anderson Memorial and 319 - signage improvements needed. Installing sign and accepting quote - \$4,250 plus decking...cost up to \$4,600
 - Motion for the sign made by Hal Wiley. Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Corner of Oriole and Frank Road - 200+ acres - Kyle Spivey owns - option to not purchase - give us a time frame - 5 year period to market - to be able to go after larger projects. - \$3.5 - \$4 million dollars - does have water and sewer access.

Workforce Development

- GA FLEX - next Friday is FHSCCA's local finals - State finals is April 2nd in Tifton - UGA Conference. On Wednesday, FLEX finalists will be at Coastal Plain BBQ with Meet & Greet - 11:00AM - 2:00PM.

Retainment/Recruitment/Existing Industry

- Project Pringles - They are out of the country, reviewing the data and exploring other sites to locate in Fitzgerald.

- Turf Solutions would like to purchase the additional 2.89 acres - Tract A - for additional spacing. The business will employ up to a dozen employees. Plans for an April ribbon cutting. He would like to partner with DLS & high school for fertilizer.
 - Motion for the sale of 2.89 acres - Tract A - \$10,000 per acre to Turf Solution made by Hal Wiley. Corey Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Other Business

- MANA contracts have been restored. Global recognition has been positive.
- Cottage Innovations - construction is going well. Lots of questions in the community. Cottage to retail level - business production. Working with UGA to put together a handbook for this project. 2-3 good candidates ready to go. Should complete in about 6 months. Rural Innovation Fund by Governor Kemp.
- Drive thru town - look at the community to see what industries see when they come to town.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cook