

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
October 12, 2022

Present

Ron Paulk, Chairman
Jason Dunn
Hal Wiley
Mark Turner
Jason Holt
Steve Taylor

Absent

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Mike Dinnerman
John Ed Smith

Chairman Ron Paulk called the October 12, 2022 meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

Minutes from the August 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve. Jason Holt seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Christina Justice presented the financials for August 31, 2022 and September 30, 2022. Hal Wiley made a motion to approve. Jason Holt seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive director, Jason Dunn gave the following report:

- GRAD site
 - Final stages of compiling application to present to state.
- Peachtree Business Park
 - Concept has been delivered.
 - We've had our initial meeting with DCA, the SGRC, and our engineers to begin pursuing \$500K in One Georgia funding.
 - Estimated project cost: \$1million to \$1.2million.
 - Put in new road which will be maintained by city, extend water & sewer lines, put in a pump station.
- Workforce Development/College & career Academy
 - FHSCCA app that will allow students to access all major employers, will eventually take it to the public.
 - In collaboration with Wiregrass, a grant has been submitted to the EDA for the development of a CDL training center.
- Lippert
 - Completing due diligence and should be ready to close soon, they will be adding 25,000 square feet and an axle production line.
- Choice Wood
 - Informed the potential buyers and Conger that we are not offering incentives for their acquisition.
- Custom Profiles
 - Sale closed in September, have added 40 new jobs in the past 12+ months with starting pay of \$15/hr. for no experience and \$18/hr. for experience.
 - New building will create 12 to 15 new jobs.
 - Looking at 2023 groundbreaking.
- Polar Beverages
 - Grant award for staging area is hung up at state level.
 - GEDA awarded the Small Community Deal of the Year "preparation community made to prepare" was the difference maker. There will be an awards luncheon on November 14, 2022 starting at

11:30 am at the GT Hotel & Conference Center in Atlanta. Polar and Conger will represent. If anyone would like to go just let Jason know. Planning on driving up the day of.

- Co-op/Innovation Kitchen
 - Grant has been approved in the amount of \$947,000
 - Process of transferring two lots behind Ford parking lot from Development Authority for the Sherman Property owned by the City of Fitzgerald.

A motion was made to approve moving forward with swapping two lots behind Ford parking lot that the Development Authority owns for the Sherman property owned by the City of Fitzgerald. Hal Wiley made a motion to approve. Steve Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

- 402 South Grant
 - Bureau Veritas.
 - Lease terms are for the most part agreed upon
- USDA Rural Partners Network
 - Event went great they were very pleased with work in Fitzgerald Kitchen project.

New Projects:

- Sirco Industrial
 - Survey has been completed and sent in to them.
 - Purchase agreement draft should be complete by next meeting, it will include a buy-back option should Sirco be unable to obtain all permits needed.

Other:

Dunn and Mr. Paulk met last Thursday for his annual review. Dunn thanked all board members for keeping him around and for the appreciated salary increase and that it has been a great seven years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Christina Justice