

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2022

Present

Ron Palk, Chairman
Jason Dunn
Steve Taylor
Jason Holt
Hal Wiley

Absent

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Mark Turner
Jessica Griner
Melissa Dark
Kathy Young

Chairman Ron Paulk called the February 9, 2022 meeting to order at 12:24 pm.

Minutes from the January 2022 meeting were reviewed. Hal Wiley made a motion to approve. Steve Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Christina Justice presented the financials for January 2022. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve. Mark Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive director, Jason Dunn gave the following report:

- Congratulations to Chairman Ron Paulk on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.
- We have begun submitting environmental data on the GRAD sight - Anderson Memorial Tract.
- Millex has purchased the former SWS Sportswear building. We will be meeting with them to discuss their next project and use of the building.
- The Polar Beverages grant has been submitted for approval.
- The sale of land to Shapiro is still in due diligence.
- In regards to the Blockstream Expansion, we have relayed to their attorney that incentives were highly unlikely.
- The Co-Op/Innovation Kitchen initial estimate on equipment came in a considerable amount over our planned budget. We are working with the equipment company to cut the budget. We're also consulting with KVM to get an up-to-date estimate on the building. Should the project remain over budget, our options are to increase our funding, seek additional funding from One Georgia, or put the project on hold.
- We will be selling 5.51 acres of land to Hugh Taylor of Triangle Pools. Rezoning and annexation of the property has begun.

Hal Wiley, CEO of the College and Career Academy, and Melissa Dark, President of the Fitzgerald Chamber, gave an update on the FLEX Competition. The second round of the competition begins tomorrow morning at 9 am. All board members are invited to attend the FLEXPO business expo at 11 am at the Grand Theatre lobby.

Jason Dunn proposed a discussion of the Federal Building as a potential new office location for the Chamber and Development Authority. The building has a lot of value to the community and would be a more appropriate center for our business efforts than the current location. Some work and updates have been completed in the building, but it would still require significant modifications and renovations.

Jason Holt made a motion to proceed with conducting due diligence for the cost of the move and renovations. The motion was seconded by Hal Wiley. The motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Dark