

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

January 12, 2022

Members Present

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

Economic Director

Jason Dunn

Other

Kyle Cook, Attorney
Kathy Young, City Administrator
Mike Dinnerman, Count Manager
Christina Justice, CFO

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Paulk at approximately 12:30 p.m.

The minutes from **previous meeting of December 8th, 2021**, were presented to those present. A motion was made by Steve Taylor to approve the minutes with corrections which were noted in the second paragraph of the Executive Director's report, seconded by Hal Wiley. *Roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion carried.*

The **financial report for December 31st, 2021**, was presented by CFO Christina Justice with no questions or comments. A motion was made by Hal Wiley to approve the December 31, 2021, financial report as presented, seconded by Mark Turner. *Roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion carried.*

Chairman Paulk turned the meeting over to Executive Director, Jason Dunn.

Director Dunn introduced Mayor Jason Holt and welcomed him to his first official meeting of the Authority. Mayor Holt announced that Kathy Young had been appointed as City Administrator and would be the point of contact for the city.

City Administrator Kathy Young presented the **proposed budget for FY2022-2023** for the Authority. Young noted the \$550,000 in grant funds listed for FY2022 which was for the innovation kitchen project, which Director Dunn would discuss in further detail later in the meeting. Young also proposed that the Authority agree to remove the Barton Organ Project from the financial and budget reports. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Hal Wiley to approve the proposed budgets as presented with removing the Barton Organ Project, seconded by Jason Holt. *Roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion carried.*

Executive Director, Jason Dunn provided the following report:

- FLEX program has been very busy and received compliments from Chris Clark. Hal Wiley stated that they were approaching round 2 of competition, which would be held on February 10th. Wiley stated there would be judges here from out of town and several presentations. The final competition to be held on March 10th and there have been many great companies. Wiley encouraged all to attend the two competition dates, which will be held at the Grand Theatre and Grand Conference Center.
- Millex has purchased Bill Smith property (Old SWS building), a 32,500 square foot building, for \$325,000. Dunn stated he was unsure of their next project but would be meeting with them later this month.
- Shapiro will be closing soon on land. Kyle stated there was a timeframe of 30 days to be completed and then the closing could be held.
- Blockstream Expansion, a Fitzgerald Utilities project, requested property tax incentives and states it will make significant impact on local option sales tax, SPLOST, ELOST, etc. Dunn stated that Jeff Lewis had been scheduled to be at the meeting to provide more details, but he was unable to attend due to being in quarantine from COVID. There was discussion from all present regarding the request on a ten (10) year tax

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- abatement and the excellent rate on electricity being provided. The consensus from all present was that tax incentives should be compared to number of jobs being provided and, in this case, did not warrant fulfilling the request.
- Innovation Kitchen project details and design were provided by Dunn. There are two (2) locations - corner of Sherman Street/Jessamine Street and location on Massee Tract owned by the Authority. The project would provide a membership and fee to those interested. It would be a 50 x 50, 2500 square foot metal building with concrete floor and all the necessary equipment.
- ECG, water treatment project looking at 30,000 – 40,000 square feet property and 30 to 45 jobs.
- Food Lab Company out of California needing a 1500 square foot location and Dunn is communicating with them.

Executive Director Dunn proposed land sale of **6.6 acres on Evergreen Road to Taylor at a cost of \$5000 per acre**. A motion was made by Jason Holt to approve the sale at \$5,000.00 per acre, seconded by Steve Taylor. *Roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion carried.*

Chairman Paulk stated the next meeting would be February 9th, 2022. With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy A Young
City Administrator