

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
June 14, 2023

Present

Jason Dunn
Steve Taylor
Jason Holt
Jason Floyd

Absent

Ron Paulk
Mark Turner

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Kathy A. Young
Mike Dinnerman
Jessica Griner
Melissa Dark
Tara Smith

Steve Taylor called the June 14 , 2023 meeting to order at 12:24 pm.

Minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Jason Holt made a motion to approve. Jason Floyd seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Christina Justice presented the financials for May 2023. Jason Holt made a motion to approve. Jason Floyd seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Tara Smith, Program Director for Georgia Flex was introduced to the board.
- Melissa Dark gave an update on Georgia FLEX. It is its own entity and Tara is the staff member housed inside the Chamber. Partnerships with Georgia Grown, AIM Grant with Georgia Tech and PIN have been obtained. There will be at about 10 schools participating in Georgia FLEX this year and measures are in place to keep Georgia FLEX in Fitzgerald.

Jason Dunn gave the following report:

- On June 30, 2023 there will be a visit from Hungarian dignitaries to Fitzgerald. They are visiting to meet the Kozmo family and eat at Cafe Budabest.
- MillEx is hosting an Open House Event the second week of July. The Development Authority and Chamber are supporting this event and the community is invited.
- There was a bid received for the truck staging area at Polar Park that came in over budget. This bid will be rejected and bidding will be opened back up.
- Cottage Innovation Kitchen bidding is open and will close out June 22, 2023.
- The Sirco Industrial project has been canceled. There is a buyback clause and the process of buying back the land is in the works.
- Homeland Security will be coming next week for a meeting about the Emergency Communication System. Kimberly Hobbs with SGRC will be attending the meeting to tie in with other counties.
- The McSwain property will be closed Tuesday of next week.

Jason Floyd was asked to excuse himself from the meeting.

- Jason Dunn proposed that the Development Authority move forward with negotiations and due diligence with J Floyd Investments to purchase property to potentially build a building to lease to Advanced Aluminum. The board consented to entering negotiations with J. Floyd Investments.

Jason Floyd returned to the meeting.

- Jason Dunn read Chairman Ron Paulk's letter of resignation to the board. Mr. Ron has been the chairman for nine and half years. He has done a good job of helping move the community forward over his time of service.
- Steve Taylor will work to find a replacement for the county representative for the board.
- Mark Turner has turned down the opportunity to be chairman. He has agreed to remain vice chair and conduct meetings going forward until a new chairman is elected.

There being no further business Steve Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Griner