

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
July 10, 2024

Present

Corey Gibbs
Justin Smith
Steve Taylor
Lawton Tinley
Jason Dunn

Absent

Jason Holt
Mike Dinnerman

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Kathy A. Young
Christine Cook
Hal Wiley

Chairman, Lawton Tinley called the July 10, 2024 meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

Minutes from the May 2024 meeting were reviewed. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve. Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Kathy Young thanked Corey Gibbs for being here and accepting appointment to the board. Christina Justice presented the financials for May 2024. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve. Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Christina Justice presented the financials for June 2024. Lawton Tinley asked about the Peachtree Business Park. Will there be more expenses? Jason Dunn stated there would be more expenses. Also expecting a grant for the project which will cover a portion of the project. Grant funds will be sent for reimbursement. Steve Taylor 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:

- Peachtree Business Park: Met with Statewide to finalize the design. The next step will be to prepare for the bid process.

Workforce Development/College & Career Academy

- FHSCCA - Forestry Lab & Sustainable Forest - West Frazier - officially announced the \$250k contribution. Hoping to have ground breaking in the Fall.

Prospecting/Networking/Relationship Building/Recruitment:

- Project Atlas - The State & Georgia Power - we have submitted sites to a manufacturer of construction equipment. Peachtree property is under consideration.
- Project Bamboo - Submitting Peachtree Business Park as location. This is a Chinese/American business venture - 60 million investment - #00k sq ft facility - 30 jobs - ag chemical company
- Jason will be attending the International Boat Builders Association show/conference in Tampa, FL - Oct 1-2, 2024
- Jason has been invited to Hungary for a Trade Visit in September - Will find out more about the trip to see if this will benefit us. Estimated it will be a \$5K trip.

Retention/Recruitment & Existing Industry:

- Two lots with High Country Cargo should close soon
- NTI Limited - sending site plan, estimates, salaries - reminder that will distribute for Lippert Components
- Mana Nutrition will have ground breaking in Savannah next week.
- Truck staging area at Polar Beverages about 50% complete.
- Eaton Corporation is consolidating and moving to Illinois. Building available - 4 companies are interested in building including Custom Profile, Mana, Covered Wagon & Peach Cargo.
- VLS Recovery - working a project with them - 10-15 new jobs. 30,000 sq ft facility - tank washing/solidiction facility

Entrepreneur/Small Business:

- Cottage Innovation - Commercial start up kitchen - contractor is finalizing bid package.

Community Development/Regional Projects:

- TSplost passed
- P25 Communication Project - community wide effect to improve our

Other Updates:

- Development Authority Training with UGA. Total cost will be \$4,000 and will take place in Fitzgerald on July 31 from 8:30am -4:30pm. Opening it up to other communities to offset the cost.
- Gateway Center in Cordele is wanting to open up a satellite office Fitzgerald. Industries came up with the start up funds of \$11,000. Hospital has a suite in the Massey Clinic that will be ready to go.
- GDOL employment data for 2022-2023 - BHC had a 4.7% increase equal to 266 new jobs.

Question regarding Lake Beatrice - revitalization of Lake Beatrice by Corps of Engineers. Where do we stand? Jason to follow up.

These updates represent our ongoing efforts towards community development, economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

Lawton thanked Corey Gibbs for joining the Board. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cook