

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
January 11, 2023

Present

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

Absent

Jason Floyd

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Kathy A. Young

Chairman Ron Paulk called the January 11, 2023 meeting to order at 12:24 pm.

Minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve. Mark Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Christina Justice presented the financials for December 31, 2022. Jason Holt made a motion to approve. Steve Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive director, Jason Dunn gave the following report:

- GRAD site
 - We have to get a few of the support letters received modified and then resubmitted.
- Peachtree Business Park
 - Delayed grant submission until April 1.
 - Budget 1.62 million, Grant \$500k want to explore and move forward a portion being funded by borrowing \$500k to \$600k.
- 808 E. Oconee Street
 - Needs concrete repair, priced locally \$36,746. Kathy Young would like to check on price for public works to do concrete work.

A motion was made to approve up to that amount. Jason Holt made a motion to approve. Steve Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Workforce Development/College & career Academy
 - In collaboration with Wiregrass, a grant has been submitted to the EDA for the development of a CDL training center still waiting to hear back about the grant.
- Polar Beverages
 - Truck staging area bidding will be sent out soon.
- Co-op/Innovation Kitchen
 - City will begin demolition soon.
 - Contract with contractor \$486,000, site work budgeted separate.

A motion was made to approve moving forward with construction. Jason Holt made a motion to approve. Mark Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

- 402 South Grant
 - Bureau Veritas.
 - Lease is in place with a January 9, start date.
- Sirco Industrial

- o Due diligence is complete.
 - o Purchase agreement will be sent out this week, it will include a buy-back option should Sirco be unable to obtain all permits needed.
- UGA Propel Program
 - o Selected to participate, provides training for community members.
 - o Goal is to build a core team and a larger team of 20 to build a strategic plan on 3 to 4 economic development initiatives.
 - o Process starts on January 25 & 26.
 - o Should you have some recommendations on who you would like to represent city and county, please send them to me.

Other:

Looking forward to 2023. Hal Wiley's last meeting was in December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Justice