

**Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 12th, 2025**

**Present**

Jason Dunn  
Justin Smith  
Hal Wiley  
Lawton Tinley  
Corey Gibbs

**Absent**

Jason Holt

**Other**

Kyle Cook  
Christina Justice  
Christine Cook  
Kathy Young  
Hampton Raulerson

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Chairman, Lawton Tinley called the March 12, 2025 meeting to order at 12:23 pm. He opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the February 2025 meeting were reviewed. Justin Smith made a motion to approve. Corey Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Christina Justice presented the financials for January & February 2025. Debt line item for \$7175 should be for the Mill Tech Park - maintenance/upkeep. This is an annual expense. Corey Gibbs 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**

- Construction on Peachtree Business Park has begun. Contractors have been instructed to pile topsoil in the back of the property to be used as needed.
- New signage for the Forward Fitzgerald GRAD site at the corner of Anderson Memorial and 319 - signage improvements needed. Installing sign and accepting quote - \$4,250 plus decking...cost up to \$4,600
  - Motion for the sign made by Hal Wiley. Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Corner of Oriole and Frank Road - 200+ acres - Kyle Spivey owns - option to not purchase - give us a time frame - 5 year period to market - to be able to go after larger projects. - \$3.5 - \$4 million dollars - does have water and sewer access.

**Workforce Development**

- GA FLEX - next Friday is FHSCCA's local finals - State finals is April 2nd in Tifton - UGA Conference. On Wednesday, FLEX finalists will be at Coastal Plain BBQ with Meet & Greet - 11:00AM - 2:00PM.

**Retainment/Recruitment/Existing Industry**

- Project Pringles - They are out of the country, reviewing the data and exploring other sites to locate in Fitzgerald.

- Turf Solutions would like to purchase the additional 2.89 acres - Tract A - for additional spacing. The business will employ up to a dozen employees. Plans for an April ribbon cutting. He would like to partner with DLS & high school for fertilizer.
  - Motion for the sale of 2.89 acres - Tract A - \$10,000 per acre to Turf Solution made by Hal Wiley. Corey Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Other Business**

- MANA contracts have been restored. Global recognition has been positive.
- Cottage Innovations - construction is going well. Lots of questions in the community. Cottage to retail level - business production. Working with UGA to put together a handbook for this project. 2-3 good candidates ready to go. Should complete in about 6 months. Rural Innovation Fund by Governor Kemp.
- Drive thru town - look at the community to see what industries see when they come to town.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cook