JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

OF

FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES

Minutes of Meeting

April 23, 2018

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday, April 23, 2018 in the conference room of St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital in Lavonia, Georgia.

Members attending were: Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Brian James, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Also present: Economic Developers. Dwayne Dye, Frank Ginn and Tim Martin; Attorneys Walter Gordon and Andrea Grant; Department of Community Affairs, Kathy Papa; Office of Senator Perdue, Andrew Seaver; Jack Edmunds and M. S. Smith, Treasurer.

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone. Dwayne Dye gave the invocation and the meal followed.

The minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Leard.

A financial summary as of March 31, 2018 was presented and approved on a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Evans.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Cleveland reported that Project Earth did not materialize and the earlier approved proposal had been cancelled.

Mr. Martin reported that the ARC Grant Letter of Support has been completed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPER REPORTS

Mr. Martin reported that while new project activity is slow, there is a good bit of activity with existing industry.

Mr. Martin stated the building and property previously occupied by Caterpillar is still for sale. He also said the county has received a building they are trying to sell; work is ongoing with the hotel project and he recently met with Joey Dorsey of Hartwell Railway regarding rail spur into industrial park.

Mr. Martin reported that he and Mr. Ginn will be attending the GEDA conference in May at Jekyll Island.

Mr. Martin commented that Mr. Scarborough will have opposition for the upcoming election to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Ginn reported that he is still pursuing an inland port project and recently met with people from the Port of Charleston.

Mr. Ginn reported that Ty Cobb Healthcare may be expanding where the old hospital was located. He also announced that Chick-Fil-A is coming to Lavonia.

Mr. Dye reported for Hart County that the work force is growing and the unemployment rate is around 4 percent.

He gave updates on Haering and Purina and commented that Linde+Wiemann is already planning an expansion. He stated that while there are fewer project requests, the ones he talks with are of good quality.

Mr. Dye stated that has been speaking at the Carl Vincent Institute at the University of Georgia and made a presentation at the GCCMA recently at Jekyll Island.

He reported on activity at Hart College and Career Academy and updated the group on the sewer project at Gateway.

Ms. Papa with the Department of Community Affairs reported on some new programs available. She announced the Georgia Academy for Economic Development in August.

Mr. Seaver with Senator Perdue’s office reported on happenings from their office and offered assistance to the authority.

Mr. Dye commented on Chairman Cleveland receiving the Rotary 4-Way award from the Hartwell Club.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

M. S. Smith

Secretary