JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

OF

FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES

Minutes of Meeting

July 23, 2018

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the conference room of St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital in Lavonia, Georgia.

Members attending were: Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Bill Leard,

Greg Roach and Gerald Voyles. Also present: Economic Developers, Dwayne Dye, Frank Ginn, Tim Martin; Attorney Andrea Grant; Department of Community Affairs, Kathy Papa; Office of Senator Perdue, Andrew Seaver; Office of Representative Collins, Bill Kokaly; Archway Partnership Executive, Anna Strickland, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Tonya Powers; Jack Edmunds and Treasurer, M S. Smith.

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and welcomed members and guests. Dwayne Dye gave the invocation and the meal followed.

The minutes of the April 23, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Cape.

A financial summary as of June 30, 2018 was presented and accepted on a motion by Mr. Leard and seconded by Mr. Roach.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Cleveland appointed the following to the nominating committee to report at the October meeting: Dean Scarborough, Gerald Voyles and Roy Crocker.

Mr. Leard made a motion to reappoint The Gordon Law Firm as legal counsel to the authority. Mr. Crocker seconded this motion and it passed.

Mr. Foster made a motion to reappoint the firm of Burch, Crooms and Company, LLP as auditors for the authority. Mr. Leard seconded the motion and it passed.

Chairman Cleveland made note of terms of authority members that will expire December 31.

Mr. Dye requested approval for a contract for the sale of 12.1 acres of land in Gateway I Industrial Park to The Adams Companies of Athens. The sales price will be $30,000 per acre. The purchaser plans to build a spec building on the property. After discussion, the motion was made to approve this contract by Mr. Leard and seconded by Mr. Foster. The motion passed.

A motion authorizing the chairman to execute all necessary documentation relating to the above transaction was made by Mr. Roach and seconded by Mr. Cape. The motion passed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPER REPORTS

Mr. Martin reported while they have 11 named projects, only three are promising at this point. Expansion of existing industry is strong with six companies in this mode. He reported one spec building has been purchased and the erection of another is being discussed for the industrial park.

Mr. Martin said that another movie is being filmed in Toccoa entitled *When We Last Spoke*.

Mr. Martin announced a tour of the three JDA counties to be held on Friday, August 10.

The tour will be made by statewide developer project managers.

Mr. Ginn said there are some activity/inquiries and some existing industry expansions taking place in Franklin County. He announced a dinner is being planned for August to showcase the new power plant and this authority will be invited to the event and plant tour.

Mr. Dye reported that unemployment in Hart County is 3.3 percent, a significant drop over the last 10 years. He stated new prospect activity is somewhat slow but existing expansion is healthy.

Mr. Dye commented on the College and Career Academy work force development programs

and the collaboration with Archway Partnership.

Mr. Dye reported that Purina will hire 60 – 70 employees in the next four months; Haering is progressing and anticipates having equipment in place around December; and the recent expansion at Ritz is complete.

Mr. Dye reported to the group that the $600,000 ARC grant for the sewer lift station has progressed to Washington,

Ms. Papa, Department of Community Affairs, reported that all three counties of this JDA will be represented by nine community leaders at the next Economic Development Academy. She also announced that the DCA Fall Conference will be held in LaGrange October 10 – 12.

Mr. Seaver, Senator Perdue’s office, reported on activity from their office. He asked that we contact him if he can be of assistance to the authority. He announced that Brad Williamson has joined Senator Isakson’s staff.

Mr. Kokaly, Representative Collins’ office, reported on activity from their office and offered assistance to the JDA.

Mrs. Strickland, Archway Partnership, updated the group on several project collaboration efforts between Archway and Hart County.

The next meeting was announced for October 22 at St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

M. S. Smith

Secretary