



117 Putnam Drive ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024 ♦ Tel: 706-485-1884
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Minutes

Monday, October 8, 2018 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 204

The Putnam Development Authority met on Monday, October 8, 2018 at approximately 9:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 204, Eatonton, Georgia

PRESENT

Chairman Bill Sharp
Member Patty Burns
Member Joshua Daniel
Member Eugene Smith
Member Ed Waggoner

OTHERS PRESENT

Attorney Kevin Brown
Economic Development Director Terry Schwindler
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. (Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes.)

Minutes

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting
- b. September 10, 2018 Executive Session

Motion to approve the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes.

Motion made by Member Smith, Seconded by Member Daniel.

Voting Yea: Vice Chairman Waggoner, Member Burns, Member Daniel, Member Smith

Motion to approve the September 10, 2018 Executive Session minutes.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Waggoner, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Vice Chairman Waggoner, Member Burns, Member Daniel, Member Smith

Financials

3. Approval of Financials - September 2018

The September 2018 Financials were not received in time for the meeting.

Motion to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion made by Member Daniel, Seconded by Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Vice Chairman Waggoner, Member Burns, Member Daniel, Member Smith

Reports

4. Economic Development Director Report - October 2018

EDD Schwindler reported the following: (copy of report made a part of the minutes)

- Website visitor sessions and pages viewed per session
- Website analytics
- Project status - 3 projects added
- Projects by Industry - 2 commercial/retail, 1 distribution
- Project source – 2 direct, 1 local referral
- Company located – University Cancer & Blood Center
- Company located – Josh’s Classic Garage
- Project update – SIP Perky Cap Lift Station upgrade is complete
- Project update – Lakeview Senior Gardens
- Business & Industry contacts - 22 MTD, 206 YTD
- Social media - 320 likes on Facebook, 44 followers on LinkedIn, 126 followers on Instagram, 18 followers on Twitter
- Events attended and upcoming events
- Interfor Hiring Expo – September 27th – 75 attendees; 29 move on to 2nd interview
- Terry Schwindler receives designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) from the International Economic Development Council
- ICSC Retail Conference – October 23-24

Regular Business

5. Sign Stew Aaron Property Documents

Mr. Aaron signed the modification of note documents. Attorney Brown advised that payments need to be caught up before the document is filed. Chairman Sharp and Member Daniel signed document during meeting. (Copy of document made a part of the minutes.)

6. GEDA Conference Report

EDD Schwindler reported that it was a good conference and provided some key takeaways:

- Regional development requires partnerships across silos
- Workforce is the most important location factor
- Logistics is the most active industry sector
- Workforce development is the most important factor communities feel they need to improve

7. IEDC Conference Report

EDD Schwindler reported that this was a much larger conference than the GEDA and it was on an international level. Key takeaways were:

- Need to have sites and buildings that have infrastructure in place (water/sewer, electric, gas, telecom, broadband).
- Develop a public private partnership for a spec building
- There are some great software packages to show community demographics. Need to show site selectors the availability and types of workers in the community and their skill sets.
- Training programs are needed for upskilling existing workforce to keep up with changing technology in the workplace. The workforce needs to be flexible for incoming companies.
- There are some great software packages for project tracking, economic/fiscal impacts, and ROI.
- EDRP is coming out with a new economic development toolkit this fall.
- Supporting entrepreneurs with incubators is a good way to grow the local economy. It may be easier to grow our own retail internally than attract from the outside.
- Need to engage children early in order to get them interested in the careers available in the community and encourage them to get the necessary skills in high school.
- Retiree attraction can be an economic development strategy. Seniors can be a valuable resource for the community by mentoring local businesses and teaching courses part-time at the high school. Seniors can also start up new businesses. A retired professional network and/or newcomers club are good to increase engagement of seniors.
- Health and well-being can be a strategy for community growth (physical, mental, and social health). Social capital is anything that builds engagement.
- Mixed use developments are used in placemaking.
- New market tax credits and historic tax credits can be used in downtown redevelopment projects.

Other Business

8. Other Business

Member Smith submitted a year-end report from the Putnam County Charger School System. (Copy of report made a part of the minutes.)

Closing

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Member Smith, Seconded by Vice Chairman Waggoner.

Voting Yea: Vice Chairman Waggoner, Member Burns, Member Daniel, Member Smith

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:29 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Bill Sharp
Chairman