

Habersham County Development Authority
Thursday, June 11, 2026 @ 3:30 p.m.
Executive Conference Room
130 Jacob's Way Clarkesville, GA 30523

The Habersham County Development Authority held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Habersham County Administration building located at 130 Jacob's Way, Clarkesville, GA, 30523.

Members Present: Jim Butterworth, Sidney Roland, Mike Franklin, Jeff Bruns, Bryan Ferguson, David Lovvorn

Members Not Present: Allen Whitener

Others Present: Tim Sims, Patti McLarty, Matt Skilling, Alex Robinson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Jim Butterworth.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Sidney Roland gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Butterworth.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Bryan Ferguson, seconded by Sidney Roland, and voted 6-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Sidney Roland, seconded by Jeff Bruns, and approved 6-0 to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026 regular meeting.

Old Business

1. Executive Director Update – Alex Robinson began the update by announcing that her E-SPLOST campaign had been successful, and she could now focus her attention on future SPLOST-related campaigns and projects. Alex also announced that Emily Jo Page was hired as the new administrative assistant to be shared between Partnership Habersham and the Chamber. Alex then reported that there is visible progress on Pad 7. Construction materials have arrived and the final permitting package has been submitted to the City of Baldwin. However, the permitting process has been delayed due to communication issues with Baldwin's new permitting company. Alex explained that developers have experienced delays waiting for answers and approvals, and even Alex has had a difficult time getting in touch with the company despite multiple attempts. Construction of a 10,000 square foot building on pad 6(B) is moving forward and Alex assisted with an estoppel letter to facilitate financing for the project. Alex shared that she has met with GMRC regarding infrastructure funding opportunities. Alex conducted a tour of Airport Business Park and Phase II with a prospective developer who has expressed interest in moving quickly on a project. In total, there are three prospects

looking at available property in Phase II. Alex is involved with an Economic Development event hosted by contractors, connectors, and closers in Atlanta. She described the event as a major networking opportunity that attracts hundreds of economic development and real estate developers from throughout the Southeast. With the first year of Habersham Works being successful, Alex is planning to reintroduce the program in 2027 with a few changes to the curriculum. Alex is also planning to launch the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy at Habersham Central. The program will focus on student leaders who serve as presidents or chairs of school clubs and organizations. The program provides leadership development for 15 to 30 students. Alex is also exploring a new fifth-grade career event she is calling "Heavy Metal in Motion." This would be a hands-on career exploration involving utility trucks, heavy equipment, construction and industrial equipment, and transportation vehicles.

2. Airport Business Park Streetlights – Patti McLarty provided a timeline from when the streetlights were first negotiated and installed in 2022, through the end of 2025 when she stopped billing the tenants in the business park. The Development Authority has spent approximately \$47,000 on installation of the lights and continues to pay a monthly bill to HEMC in the amount of \$165. A lengthy discussion ensued whether to keep the lights on or turn them off. Some members are adamant that we should turn off the lights and not provide any landscaping services since we no longer own property in the first phase. Other members argue that the business park represents the Development Authority, and we should pay the minimum bill to keep the streetlights on. The owners have still not formed an association to handle the common area expenses, although they have been asked to do so. Alex then brought up the subject of signage (see item 3.) Matt Skilling suggested that rather than ending our services in the business park, we send a formal written notice to the tenants and owners explaining that the Development Authority plans to turn over responsibility to property owners after a reasonable notice. Matt will create the letter to be reviewed at the next meeting.
3. Airport Business Park Signage – Several owners or tenants have reached out to Alex asking for a new sign where they can display their information. Alex is looking into getting a sign with more consistent look, rather than using company logos. She suggested that the Development Authority pay for the installation of the sign, after which tenants and owners would be responsible for maintenance responsibilities and future management of the sign.
4. Pad 5 Wilson-Hutchinson – There is still no construction activity on Pad 5 owned by Wilson-Hutchinson after more than two years. A MOTION was made by Sidney Roland, seconded by Mike Franklin, and voted 6-0 to have Matt Skilling prepare a letter to the owner expressing the Development Authority's desire to buy back the property due to lack of activity on the property.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Other Reports

None

A MOTION was made by Sidney Roland, seconded by David Lovvorn, and voted 6-0 to enter into Executive Session at 4:35 p.m.

Executive Session

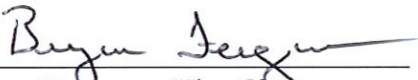
A MOTION was made by Bryan Ferguson, seconded by Sidney Roland, and voted 6-0 to exit Executive Session at 5:07 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Habersham County Administration building.

Adjourn

A MOTION was made by Sidney Roland, seconded by Bryan Ferguson, and voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m.


Bryan Ferguson, Vice Chair


Attest: ~~Sidney Roland, Secretary~~
Alex Robinson
Executive Director