

Habersham County Development Authority
Thursday, April 7, 2022 @ 3:30 pm
Executive Floor Conference Room
130 Jacob's Way, Clarkesville, GA 30523

Members Present: Gail Thaxton, Bryan Ferguson, Jeff Bruns, Bill Duff, Allen Whitener, Brent Edwards, Kelly Woodall

Members Not Present: None

Others Present: Mike Beecham, Alicia Vaughn, Janney Sanders, Ty Akins, Bruce Palmer, Charlie Fiveash, other guests

Call to Order and Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm and invocation given by Gail Thaxton.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Brent Edwards, SECONDED by Bryan Ferguson, and voted unanimously to approve the order of business.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Jeff Bruns, SECONDED by Bill Duff, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2022 regular meeting.

Monthly Activity Report

Mike Beecham presented the Monthly Activity Report. March YTD represents 75% of the Fiscal Year. Current revenues are .40% and current expenditures are 27%. Total account balances are \$713,809.

There was a sign in need of repair in the business park, which was an expense of approximately \$200.

A MOTION was made by Bryan Ferguson, SECONDED by Brent Edwards, and voted unanimously to approve the monthly financial report as presented.

Mr. Beecham also shared the proposed FY23 budget, which will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. The budget reflects an increase in Sale of Assets of \$404,000 and an increase in Interest income of \$570. It also reflects an increase in Legal, Bank Fees, and in Industrial Park Expansion of \$425,000, which will cover the road in the Reed property development.

A MOTION was made by Bill Duff, seconded by Jeff Bruns, and voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget for FY23.

Old Business

Airport Business Park Update – Mike Beecham stated that he, Dr. Thaxton, Charlie Fiveash and Alicia Vaughn met to discuss action items from the February retreat. They agreed that the primary focus for going forward is development of the Reed property, to make it more marketable and valuable. Engineer James Irvin is currently working on design of a cul-de-sac design road, around which the pads will be spaced. The entrance will be off Duncan Bridge Rd. There will be a variety of pad sizes. Mike will get

estimates for road construction and hopes to have them by the next meeting. Mr. Beecham also stated that another top priority is completing the work on the stormwater ponds in the business park.

Other Property Updates – None

Partnership Habersham – Charlie Fiveash said that an existing occupant in the business park has interest in purchasing pad 3 for expansion of their existing business. Pad 3 backs up to the Reed property. The Higgins property has been issued a building permit but has not yet broken ground. The remaining sites in the business park are two graded sites and one 10-acre ungraded site. Mr. Fiveash also stated that Partnership Habersham is looking for larger parcels in the county that could potentially accommodate a large distribution-type business.

New Business

Chamber Building Discussion - Attorney Jim Weidner spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. The lease with Ethicon expired several years ago and has now been revised. The main changes to the lease are extending the lease period to 99 years, and the intention for the Chamber to build a new building at some point in the future.

A MOTION was made by Brent Edwards, seconded by Kelly Woodall, and voted unanimously to enter into a new contract with Ethicon to extend the lease for the Chamber of Commerce property.

A MOTION was made Jeff Bruns, seconded by Brent Edwards, and voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 3:56 pm.

Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Bryan Ferguson, seconded by Allen Whitener, and voted unanimously to exit Executive Session at 4:18 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is Thursday, May 5, 2022 @ 3:30 pm, Habersham County Administration Building.

Adjourn

A MOTION was made by Bill Duff, seconded by Brent Edwards, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 pm.



Brent Edwards, Secretary



Attest: Mike Beecham