

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA

June 3 , 2021

Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alfred Blackmar, Russ Carreker, Selvin Hollingsworth, Jacki Lowe, Lisa Smith, Chris Wightman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Heath Schondelmayer

ALSO PRESENT:

Pam Hodge, Sendreka Lakes, Jim Lovett, Jamie Loyd, Rob McKenna, Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Katherine Kelly, Ron Williams

Russ Carreker, Chairman, noting that a quorum was present and proper notice had been given in accordance with the requirements of Georgia law, called the June 3, 2021 meeting to order.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Chris Wightman and seconded by Lisa Smith, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".

FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe Sanders reviewed the revenues and expenses and explained some variances. Year-to-date net income is ahead of budget. The Kysor Warren project bond fees were received. He reported that the proposed budget for next year is being developed and should be ready for presentation at the July meeting **Upon motion made by Lisa Smith and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the May 2021 Financial Report attached as Exhibit "B".**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- Brian Sillitto reported on global business attraction. He reported that there were 5 leads in May, 6 projects, 11 prospects and 22 suspects. He reviewed the leads and gave updates on the projects. He spoke about the available buildings. He reported on the acquisition of the Ralston Building which will be announced at 10:00 this morning. He reported that Ron Williams from CSU has joined the Healthcare Council and several others will also be joining. Brian Sillitto reported that the results from the Mass Economics session last month have been received by Jerald Mitchell and they are being reviewed for the next directions in economic development. He met with several site selection consultants at the GEDA Spring Workshop. The scope and cost of the Industrial Mobility Study are being finalized with the consultant.
- Sendreka Lakes reported that Josh Beard and she connected with 36 businesses last month. They have found that the service industries are having difficulty getting employees back to work and a Restaurant Industry Town Hall is being planned. She reported the labor participation rate is improving. She spoke about working to develop new ways to recruit talent. She gave an update on the Construction Ready program of Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA). She reported that a Resource Expo is being planned for minority businesses. She talked about the companies having to pay premiums to employees to return and stay. Assistance is being given to small businesses to help them get familiar with the process of applying for capital resources.
- Jerald Mitchell reported on the recent pop-up meeting to raise the Chamber profile to the business community so businesses which do not regularly engage with Chamber can learn of our offerings. He spoke about efforts to continue engagement with regional areas. He reported that Joel Wooten has been elected as the chair of the Georgia Ports Authority Board. He reported the following: the Columbus 2025 feasibility study is complete and decision was made to proceed to a broader campaign; American Airlines will have service to and from Dallas and Charlotte; continuing advocacy for businesses in relation to NDO; congratulated Colonel (Ret.) Ralph Puckett, Jr. upon being awarded the Medal of Honor.

- Russ Carreker asked Brian Sillitto to give update on the Path-Tec project. He reported that the parking lot and building expansion is still planned. He reported on the options for the remaining MTP funds. Discussion took place. It was decided to bring a proposal to the next meeting of the Authority. Discussion took place about possibility of building a spec building. The remainder of the SPLOST funds is for improvements in MTP. Selvin Hollingsworth suggested getting data from contractors of timeline to put up a building.

CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

Pam Hodge reported that the proposed FY 2022 Budget is moving forward and first and second readings will begin next week. The T-SPOST projects have been sent to the Regional Roundtable for consideration. The SPLOST is moving forward for a vote on November 3, 2021. The American Rescue Plan has \$78M total with half this year and half next year. The final guidelines are more restrictive than the CARES ACT and all spending has to be tied to COVID-19 except water, sewer, storm water and broadband spending. The guidelines for spending will be coming soon. She spoke about some of the allowable items. The sales tax has increased 11% this fiscal year compared to last year at this time. The T-SPLOST will be up for vote in 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL ISSUES

- **Upon motion made by Chris Wightman and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the amendment to extend the Global Callcenter Solutions Project Agreement.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Chris Wightman and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the execution of documents to Refinance the Inverness II Project.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Chris Wightman and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the execution of documents to Refinance the Hampton Inn South Project.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously approved the Ratification of the request from Alexander Contracting Company pertaining to dirt on Benning Technology Park Barrow Area.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Alfred Blackmar and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously to approve the Inducement Resolution for the Stalwart Plastics Project for machinery and equipment purchases.** Documents are on file.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority meeting was adjourned.

By: _____
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

Russell D. Carreker, Chair