

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
December 3 , 2020  
Via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

none

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ben Adams, Josh Beard, Peter Bowden, Pam Hodge, Tom Horn, Jim Lovett, Chris Markwood, Rob McKenna, Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Katherine Kelly

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 December 3, 2020 meeting to order.

**MINUTES**

**Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jackie Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Heath Schondelmayer reviewed the reports and explained some variances. He reported that the claw back money had been received from H&K. **Upon motion made by Heath Schondelmayer and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the November 2020 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Brian Sillitto reported that announcements through November total 315 new jobs and \$52M in capital investment. He gave updates on the active projects and reported on the new leads in November. The Economic Development report is attached as Exhibit "C". He gave an update on the MEI program to visit with 190 companies via zoom, phone calls or in person. Before Thanksgiving 130 of the 190 had been completed. Some of the areas discussed from these meetings were workforce, having companies tell their stories and opportunities they have to hire individuals through media. Unemployment in Columbus MSA continues to decrease. He reported that some discussion had taken place on airline recruitment. Jerald Mitchell commented on how more airline activity helps in recruiting talent and companies. He reported that discussions have taken place about having a spec building. Chris Wightman and Jim Lovett are interested in being involved in these discussions and to report back to the Authority. Jim Lovett made comments. Brian spoke about a virtual call with about 600 economic developers across the nation about how to connect with site selection consultants in the COVID-19 era. He reported that the annual UGA Economic Outline this year is today at 10:00 a.m. via zoom. He will send connection information to members.

**CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT**

Pam Hodge reported that the agreement with the CCVB, Development Authority and the City to assist with revenue replacement has not had to be used yet. She presented a summary on the CARES Act. There were 467 applications in the areas of business and arts, health and medical, and community assistance. Applications deemed eligible were 301 applying for total of \$7.2M with total of \$3.5M

approved. However, the Phases 2 and 3 expected funds were deferred to be used for unemployment matters by the State. The summary document was emailed to the members during the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Brian Sillitto reported that in follow up from the last meeting there is about \$480,000 left for MTP development in the SPLOST. Use of these funds need to be determined before June 2021. Jerald Mitchell reported on the grand opening of StartUp Columbus which will be significant in job creation and entrepreneurial activities. He reported that entrepreneurialism is a great way to engage rural counties and economically distressed areas of Muscogee County. He congratulated Brian Sillitto for advancing ways to do virtual engagement.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**LEGAL ISSUES**

- **Upon motion made by Heath Schondelmayer and seconded by Lisa Smith, the Authority unanimously acknowledged the Receipt of Repayment and approved the termination of the Performance and Accountability Agreement for the Heckler & Koch Project.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously approved the termination of the Bond Issue for the Masterbuilt Project.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Lisa Smith and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously agreed to the transfer of the Bonds and the Lease for the Independence Place Project as required under the Trust Agreement with all rights and obligations of the Authority being transferred to the Trustee.** Documents are on file.
- Rob McKenna reported that the new owner of the bond leases for the GMA Apartments I and II approved last meeting has requested the new Security Deed be executed by the Authority. It was the consensus of the Authority to have a special meeting to consider this action after Rob McKenna has had a chance to review the documents.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Upon motion made by Chris Wightman and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a real estate matter.**

There was no action taken during the Executive Session.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Lisa Smith, the meeting was adjourned.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell D. Carreker, Chair

NOTE: Minutes approved at the January Authority meeting but not signed since met via Zoom.