

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
September 10 , 2020  
Via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Chris Wightman

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Richard Baxter, Josh Beard, Pam Hodge, Anna Hurt, Sendreka Lakes, Jamie Loyd, 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 September 10, 2020 meeting to order.

**MINUTES**

**Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Heath Schondelmayer reviewed the reports and explained some variances. He reported that the FY 2019-2020 consolidated audit is nearly completed. There were no questions or comments on the financials. Brian Sillitto reported that there are two SunTrust accounts which need new signature cards.

**Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority passed a resolution authorizing Russ Carreker, Heath Schondelmayer and Brian Sillitto to be the signers for the two SunTrust accounts.**

**CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT**

Pam Hodge reported on the first phase of the CARES ACT which was \$10.2 million has been completed. Funding has been received. Media Marketing, and More received 467 applications from medical services, small businesses, community assistance, and non-profits for \$7.2 million. These have been reviewed with eligible applications totaling \$3.4 million. These eligible applications are being reviewed by the City. The City is waiting to hear from the State about how to proceed with Phases 2 and 3. She reported that the July sales tax report was up 4.6% compared to last year.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Brian Sillitto reviewed Exhibit C. There was an increase in leads. He explained the FedEx Ground requirement for additional parking and will lease space from Califormulations for 2 years. He talked about opportunities for more cargo going through Columbus Airport. He reported on some of the projects and the new leads. He reported that on ChooseColumbus.com you can see where broadband is in the Columbus region. He gave an update on H&K 18-month extension which has ended. He spoke about the possibility of Columbus having 2 VA Clinics. He has been working with a company looking at acquiring the Ralston. HUD has about 6 or 7 interested in the Ralston. The City has an RFP out to these companies for responses by September 22.
- Josh Beard reported that there is a lack of qualified robotic technicians in the region. He has talked with Jamie Loyd about possibility of establishing a NEXIS program for robotic technicians which could be a feeder certificate for the CSU program. The NDIA conference and the Maneuver Warfare Conference will be virtual this year. He reported on communications with some local and national elected officials to keep them on board with robotics. Sendreka Lakes

will look into whether companies can be cybersecurity certified. Jamie Loyd reported that Columbus Tech has cybersecurity certification for students. He will contact August to determine if they have any certification for companies.

- Sendreka Lakes talked about Sector Partnerships. She asked members to send her names of people in financial services and insurance industries who would like to get involved in the Sector Partnership program. Funding has been secured from the State; however, there has not been a commitment from the local Workforce Development Board for how to access the funds. It was suggested that some people talk with the Mayor about how this can be facilitated. She gave an update on the Welcome Home campaign to attract talented educated people to or back to our region. Survey indicated what works best is using targeted areas like people, professions, or places. These surveys will be used to develop a program that will be valuable to all participants. Discussion took place about 5G roll out and possible pilot programs.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Russ Carreker reported on the groundbreaking for Mercer University School of Medicine Columbus and thanked members for attending.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **LEGAL ISSUES**

- **Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously agreed to the termination of Exide Technologies 2011 Bond and approved to sign the Agreement to Terminate.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the Property Easement Consent Agreement for WOW to access property for the benefit of Ram Hospitality.** Documents are on file.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

Russ Carreker congratulated Lisa Smith for Southern Company being named one of the top utilities in the country for economic development. He reported on the meeting some individuals had with Governor Kemp after the Mercer Columbus Campus groundbreaking.

Jerald Mitchell spoke about some good opportunities for region with increase in State activity and need to get good data and do strategic planning for economic development in Columbus and region.

Anna Hurt suggested that the Authority could have a zoom meeting with the statewide project managers to provide information as has been done in previous year by hosting them in Columbus.

Richard Baxter reported that all Film Fund data has been provided for the CEDC audit. Negotiations are underway for a new production which would start shooting in November. The company is currently reviewing the proposed grant from Film Academy.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

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

Approved by:

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

**NOTE: Meeting was viz zoom so not signed yet.**