Development Authority of Columbus, GA
118 W. 11th Street, Suite 102
Columbus, GA 31901
August 13, 2026 – 8:30 AM

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selvin Hollingsworth, Geniece Granville, Laura Gower, Doug Jenkins, Audrey Tillman

OTHERS PRESENT:
Rob McKenna (Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, PC), Missy Kendrick (DACG), Michelle Phillips (DACG), Andy Hilmes (DACG) Bill Dudley (Dudley Strategies), Martha Ann Todd (Columbus Technical College)

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Selvin Hollingsworth called the meeting to order, and a quorum was present.

Agenda Amendment
Mr. Hollingsworth asked the board for approval to amend the agenda by adding "Airport Intergovernmental Agreement"as item B under Legal Matters. Ms. Laura Gower made the motion to amend the agenda. Ms. Audrey Tillman seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Geniece Granville, and Mr. Doug Jenkins all voted in favor.

Minutes
Mr. Hollingsworth presented the minutes from the meeting on July 9, 2026. Ms. Tillman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

Finance Report
July 2026 – Ms. Missy Kendrick presented the financial report for June 2026 with Total Assets and Equity of $22,402,863.65 and Net Income of -$86,818.17. Ms. Gower made a motion to approve the financial report, and Ms. Tillman seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

Audit
Ms. Kendrick shared with the board that the Development Authority is working on the audit. She noted that there should be a final audit at the next board meeting on September 10, 2026.

Economic Development Report

Project Golden
Ms. Kendrick informed the board that she has received draft conceptual design plans for South Commons. She stated that there is a meeting with department leaders and stakeholders on August 19, 2026 to discuss design plans.

Project Ruby
Ms. Kendrick reminded the board that a lawsuit has been filed regarding procedure of the Overlay. She shared with the board that the attorneys have filed an answer. She noted that the project is on hold until the lawsuit is resolved.

MTP Update
Ms. Kendrick shared with the board that the permit for clearing and grading at Muscogee Technology Park has been submitted to the City for a second time. She noted that the City has agreed to a road closure that will save the Authority money and also stated the City has sent the permit request back with additional comments. She noted that Barge Design Solutions is working on correcting the issues that were identified and will resubmit. Ms. Kendrick stated that once the City approves the permit, the Development Authority will send the grading plan out for bid.

Valley Partnership JDA
Ms. Kendrick stated that she and Attorney Mr. Rob McKenna are still working with the Attorney General's Office to revise the restructuring resolution to include Smiths Station and Phenix City.

Office Construction Update
Ms. Kendrick shared that construction of the Development Authority's office buildout will begin August 24, 2026, and should finish by November 6, 2026.

Prospect Activity
Ms. Kendrick noted that there were 8 new projects last month.

Workforce Development/Military Affairs

DCIP

Mr. Andy Hilmes informed the DA Board that the Department of War will announce winners of the 2026 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) anytime between now and late September. There are two local submissions for this year's program.

Puckett Ribbon Cutting

President Martha Ann Todd informed the DA Board of the successful ribbon-cutting ceremony at the brand-new Puckett Center on July 31st. The event was well attended by local and state-elected officials, as well as the Commanding General of Fort Benning and his staff. Classes began at the Puckett Center on August 3rd.

eVTOL/Airport Update

Mr. Hilmes reported that the Development Authority continues to work with Columbus Airport on an airside charging station and vertiport for electric aircraft. The City has allocated $2.2 million for construction, with completion anticipated in 2027. During a recent meeting with GDOT staff, Columbus has been invited to participate in one of the seven national eIPP federal pilot programs for advanced air mobility. The evelopment Authority will continue to work with GDOT to build out Columbus' participation.

Fort Benning PAE Update

Mr. Hilmes shared that the Army continues to refine the structure of the Portfolio Acquisition Executive (PAE) for Ground Maneuver. Due to Congressional requirements, the PAE will be led by an acquisition-trained general officer, with Major General Tuley serving as his deputy. The PAE will maintain an operations cell at Fort Benning. Mr. Hilmes noted that Columbus should expect to see a surge in defense industry related activity occurring at Ft. Benning.

A&P Update

President Todd reported that Columbus Technical College expects the release of $897,000 in federal funds for Phase I equipment, with the program on track to open in August 2027. CTC has also submitted the full facility request to TCSG for consideration in the FY28 state budget. On May 14, 2026, the DA committed $150,000 for the conceptual design work for the budget submission.

City Update/Riverside District

Ms. Hodge presented an overview of the parcels comprising the Riverside District. Ms. Kendrick noted that the Development Authority intends to apply for a Revolving Loan Fund and, if awarded, may be able to use a portion of the funds to support site cleanup activities within the Riverside District.

Legal Matters

Hilton Garden Inn Lease Termination

Mr. Rob McKenna stated that the lease period for Hilton Garden Inn has ended and the lease needs to be terminated. Ms. Gower made a motion to terminate the lease. Ms. Granville seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

Airport Authority Intergovernmental Agreement

Ms. Kendrick reported that City Council previously approved $260,000 for the Airport Authority, with the Development Authority serving as the pass-through for the funds. She presented the MOU and requested that the Board authorize Mr. Hollingsworth to sign the final MOU on its behalf following Council approval. Ms. Gower made the motion. Ms. Tillman seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

Executive Session

Ms. Gower made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Ms. Tillman seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

Ms. Gower made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Ms. Granville seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

Ms. Gower made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Granville seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman, Ms. Granville and Mr. Jenkins all voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy Kendrick

Missy Kendrick
President/CEO