Development Authority of Columbus, GA
118 W. 11th Street, Suite 102
Columbus, GA 31901
May 14, 2026 – 8:30 AM

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selvin Hollingsworth, Charles Ray Sheffield, Laura Gower, Doug Jenkins

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

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

Minutes
Mr. Hollingsworth presented the minutes from the meeting on April 09, 2026. Mr. Charles Ray Sheffield made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Ms. Laura Gower seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. Doug Jenkins and Ms. Gower all voted in favor.

Finance Report
May 2026 – Ms. Missy Kendrick presented the financial report for April 2026 with a stable Balance Sheet and Net Income of ($44,499). Ms. Gower made a motion to approve the financial report, and Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion.
Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Gower all voted in favor.

Economic Development Report
Project Golden – South Commons Planning
Ms. Kendrick shared with the board that the Development Authority has engaged Nelson to develop the Master Plan for the project. Ms. Kendrick noted that in the City Council meeting on May 12, 2026, $250,000 was approved for the master plan and environmental work that is still needed on the site. Ms. Kendrick stated that the Market Study has been completed and shared that Nelson will utilize the findings to

help guide development of the Master Plan. Nelson plans to involve the community and should have the Master Plan ready for review in six months.

Project Ruby Update
Ms. Kendrick reported that the first reading of the Technology Overlay District will be June 2, 2026 with the second reading on June 16, 2026.

Project Ciel Update
Ms. Kendrick informed the board that JS Link America has moved to site #17. The company hasn't signed state documents, and she expects them to sign those any day now.

Prospect Activity
Ms. Kendrick reported that project activity was stronger than last month with 16 new projects.

Funding Requests – New Process
Ms. Michelle Phillips shared that the Development Authority created a new process for those seeking funding. This new process will allow time for the staff and board to review the request. Ms. Gower made a motion to adopt the new process. Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Gower all voted in favor.

Grant Update
Ms. Phillips shared with the board that the Rural Site Development Grant application for $2M towards clearing and grading sites #12, #13, and #19 has been completed. She noted that the state visited the site on May 12, 2026, and asked questions concerning the grant. The grant recipients will be notified in July or August.

Ms. Phillips stated that the grant application for Project Yeti, (Bio Touch), has been completed and is currently awaiting award notification from the state.

Ms. Phillips noted that she is working on an EDA Grant for $250,000 for Master Planning of South Commons that should be completed by May 22, 2026.

Ms. Phillips shared that she is working on an EPA Revolving Loan Fund for $1M. She noted that the Notice of Funding hasn't been posted yet.

Workforce Development
A&P (Airframe & Power Plant Maintainer) Update

Mr. Hilmes noted Columbus Technical College was informed earlier this week that Governor Kemp did not approve the Georgia legislature's request for $2.2 million in the state's FY27 budget to fund construction design work for an aviation maintenance training facility at Columbus Airport. Ms. Martha Ann Todd, President of Columbus Technical College, is confident an updated request has a strong chance of being included in the FY28 budget. The setback will NOT impact CTC's ability to open Phase I of the program at an existing CTC facility during calendar year 2027.

Ms. Kendrick asked the board to approve a donation to Columbus Technical College for engineering and design for phase two of the A&P program. Mr. Sheffield made a motion to approve the donation. Ms. Gower seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Gower all voted in favor.

EVTOL Update
Mr. Hilmes informed the board that the Development Authority will present to the Columbus City Council on June 9, 2026, requesting support for allocating $2.2 million in TIA discretionary funds for construction of a vertiport and aircraft charging station in 2027. The EVTOL working group recently met with Georgia Power, and the project has qualified for the company's Make Ready Program and potential commercial charging station rebates, helping reduce construction costs.

Brigade Combat Team Relocation
Mr. Andy Hilmes shared that a potential opportunity related to Fort Benning following the May 1, 2026 announcement that the U.S. Department of War plans to withdraw 5,000 soldiers from Germany within the next six to 12 months. While a relocation destination has not been announced, Fort Benning is viewed as a strong candidate should the unit be repositioned within the continental United States due to its existing infrastructure and recent deployment facility improvements. Mr. Hilmes will work with local leaders to encourage congressional support for Fort Benning as a primary consideration for the unit's relocation.

City Update
Ms. Pam Hodge informed the board of the balance of SPLOST dollars for economic development and discussed the airport budget.

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

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy Kendrick

Missy Kendrick
President/CEO