

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
April 4, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heath Schondelmayer, Selvin Hollingsworth, Charles Ray Sheffield, Geniece Granville, Dallis Copeland

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Laura Gower, Travis Chambers

ALSO PRESENT: Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Pam Hodge, Rob McKenna, Tracey Herring, Conner Miller, Helen Williams, Jennifer Bickerstaff w/C4C, Joshua Beard w/Mayor's office

The meeting was called to order by Heath Schondelmayer at 8:30 AM.

I. WELCOME

- a. March 7, 2024, Minutes - **Having been distributed during to the meeting and upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Dallis Copeland the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the March 7, 2024, meeting attached as "Exhibit A."**

II. FINANCES

- a. March Financial Update – Joe Sanders reviewed the P&L and balance sheet. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the February Financial Reports attached as "Exhibit B."**

III. LEGAL ISSUES

- a. Rob McKenna provided the following items:
 - i. Extension of the Option Period and Lease Renewal for Waggoner Trucking
 1. Need a price approval for the next 5 years - The board requested a list of improvements/investments made by Waggoner – The board would also like the Fair Market Value for the property. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved to grant a 60-day extension.**

IV. Columbus 2025 Update by Tabetha Getz

- a. Tabetha Getz thanked the Development Authority Board Members for their contributions to the Columbus 2025 initiative.
 - i. She provided an overview of Columbus 2025 stating it is a collaborative community and economic development strategic framework that focuses the community's efforts on jobs, talent, and place for more competitive and prosperous region by 2025.
 - ii. The framework constructs a new level of collaboration for how we will increase prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance quality of life for decades to come.

- b. Tabettha introduced Bill McMann from Start-Up Columbus
 - i. Bill explained the role of Start-Up Columbus
 - 1. Promoting E-Business (Entrepreneurship)
 - 2. Providing the following services:
 - a. Programming
 - b. Physical Office Space
 - c. Mentorship
 - d. Consulting
 - e. Networking events
 - f. Access to Capital
 - 3. Start-Up Columbus has supported over 300 businesses with 397 jobs created
 - 4. Dollars invested into businesses are around 320k
 - 5. Start-Up Columbus host an Annual Entrepreneur Event in November
 - a. 40k is given away during this event (2 x 15k and 2 x 5k checks)
 - 6. Digital markets platform, connect with other entrepreneur organizations and through partnerships
 - 7. Angel Fund Network is in place to:
 - a. Bring together Bankers, Lenders and the Entrepreneurs
 - b. Provide access to capital

V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- a. Jerald Mitchell provided an update on the 2024 Project Pipeline
 - i. Barge 11 – 64 acres at Technology Park update – Barge will begin to move trees and dirt
 - ii. Redevelopment of Golden Park is on track
 - iii. Robotics, submitted congressional request to support Ft. Moore 10x program
- b. Tracey Herring presented an update on Small Business
 - i. Received positive feedback on the March 19th Small Business Bootcamp
 - ii. Announced the 2024 quarterly Roundtable w/Mayor “Skip” Henderson calendar scheduled meetings to be held in the Chamber Boardroom
 - iii. The Small Business Week is scheduled in May (April 28th – May 4th)
 - iv. Small Business 2024 Summer Series
- c. Bill Dudley provided updates:
 - i. House Bill 1440 Richard Smith Chips Act
 - ii. Special Election for Richard Smith’s position is Tues. April 9th
 - iii. License Reciprocity for Military spouse (recognize the education and experience that a licensee has obtained in another state)
 - iv. Funding for CSU and Columbus Tech
 - v. Income Tax Reduction 5.4%
 - vi. Corporate Income Tax for the State
 - vii. The Chips Legislation was based off the Texas Law

VI. CITY REPORT

- a. Pam provided updates on the following items:
 - i. Golden Park – Bond passed the closing is Tuesday, April 9, 2024, received a good taxable rate @ 5% - 6 bidders are interested in purchasing the Bond
 - ii. Demo permits issued – you will start to see work in progress on April 10th
 - iii. The Judicial Center groundbreaking ceremony is today, April 4th @ 1:00pm
 - iv. Business License, temporary staff has been added to help with the increased license request (last year 2202 licenses were issued, currently 3294 licenses have been submitted), the additional staff has changed the processing time. The goal is to have all of the submitted license mailed out by June 1st
 - v. We are working to have an online license process in place by 2025
 - vi. Testing the online permitting:
 - 1. Building permits
 - 2. Trade permits
 - 3. Electrical/Plumbing permits
 - 4. Inspections
 - 5. Builders and Contractors will be able to go online to review all of their permits
 - vii. Getting ready for the Mayor Summer Youth Program (ages 16 to 24), looking to increase the participates from 82 to 125, working with the Urban League

VII. Upcoming Events

- a. State of Fort Moore – April 26th
- b. Partnership Golf Tournament – May 3
- c. Inter-City Leadership Conference
 - i. Date: Sep 25 – 27, 2024
 - ii. Location: W Hotel Downtown Atlanta, Ga
 - iii. Brian provided a handout with the logistics
- d. Dean Ketter event tonight, Korean–US Economic Relations and the Impacts on GA

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – Geniece made to plea to encourage everyone to get out to vote

IX. OLD BUSINESS – Nothing to report

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Jerald presented Heath with a Crystal Gavel as he rolls off as Chairman
- b. Voting for new officers is scheduled Tuesday, Apr 4th: Chair, Selvin Hollingsworth; Vice Chair, Charles Ray Sheffield; Secretary, Geniece Granville - **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by, Heath Schondelmayer the Authority unanimously approved the new officers.**

XI. MEETING ADJOURNED

- i. There being no further business of the Authority was declared adjourned by the Chairman at 9:25 am.



Selvin Hollinsworth, Chairman



Charles Ray Sheffield, Vice Chair

