

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
January 5, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heath Schondelmayer, Selvin Hollingsworth, Tyson Begly, Charles Ray Sheffield, Geniece Granville, Travis Chambers

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Dallis Copeland

ALSO PRESENT: Meghan Richardson, Conner Miller, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Katelin Bahten, Robert McKenna, Jerald Mitchell, Pace Halter, Jack Key, Deborah Kidder, Audrey Hollingsworth, Ben Moser, Matthew Sellers, Cotton Companies, Barge Engineering, Pam Hodge, Chris Woodruff,

The meeting was called to order by Heath Schondelmayer. He introduced everyone to the meeting and also introduced the Columbus Economic Development Corporation.

I. WELCOME

- A. Jack Key, the Chair of the CEDC, expressed his thanks for The Chamber of Commerce.
- B. December 1, 2022 Minutes - **Upon motion made by Tyson Begly and seconded by Geniece Granville, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the December 1, 2022 meeting attached as "Exhibit A".**

II. FINANCES

- A. December Financial Update – Tyson Begly commented on several line expenses to include CEDC audit, accounting fees, and being on track for 2023. Joe Sanders commented on the millage funds. **Upon motion made by Travis Chambers and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the December 2022 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".**
- B. Matthew Sellers gave a brief presentation of the audit review. He discussed the highlights of the positive cash flow, debt payoffs and operating revenues. He also brought up the pledges received and using it towards income. Audrey Hollingsworth fielded questions in regards to the Chamber fees and how it correlates back to the CEDC. Matthew discussed the investments, assets and notes to consolidated financial statements. Tyson Begly and Heath Schondelmayer fielded questions about market value. Discussion on the long-term debt and CEDC payables to the Development Authority. **Upon motion made by Jack Key and seconded by Audrey Hollingsworth and Pace Halter, the CEDC unanimously approved the Audit Review from Robinson Grimes.**
- C. **Upon motion made by Charles Ray Sheffield, seconded by Tyson Begly, unanimously approved the audit review from Robinson Grimes.**

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- A. Meghan Richardson presents economic development snapshot. She reported the following items:
 - Recap on the successes of the 2022 year, including jobs created, investments and
 - Discussion on the Columbus Economic Development strategy for 2023. Goals, strategic industries, tactics for workforce development and success building opportunities.

- Discussion on the 2023 project pipeline focusing on the 23K jobs created and \$6.5 Billion in investments.
- Meghan projected upcoming events and efforts towards growing Columbus past the county lines.
- Meghan spoke on workforce development concerns, goals and initiatives to retain the workforce such as reaching over 200 referrals and 85 existing industries.

IV. CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

- A. Pam Hodge gave a brief report of the City of Columbus. She mentioned swearing in the newest District 7 councilwoman, JoAnne Cogle. The city is scheduling a tour for council on January 31st. There was discussion on the increase of sales tax, TSPLOST, the forward movement with the ARP Grants. Jerald mentioned setting up a date to give a presentation to the council. Heath Schondelmayer fielded questions in regards to TSPLOST and keeping up with the projects.

V. CHAMBER REPORT

- A. Jerald Mitchell presents Chamber snapshot. He reported on the following items:
- Recap on the 2022 organizational goals and highlights from each of the departments adding 112 new chamber partners, over 2000 jobs created, and over 4000 engagements. Continuation of growing the Chamber and bringing statewide visibility for Columbus.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Nothing significant to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Heath Schondelmayer briefly discussed the CHIPS Act and involvement from Columbus to help move the needle and how the Development Authority can deliver.

VIII. LEGAL ISSUES

- A. License Agreement with Liberty Utilities. Upon motion made by Geniece Granville and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the License Agreement with Liberty Utilities, allowing Liberty Utilities to use the Veterans Parkway Property given to the Authority by Atmos (now Liberty) on a short term basis as a "lay-down" area during the construction of the widening of Veterans Parkway.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. None.

X. MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the Authority was declared adjourned by the Chairman.



Heath Schondelmayer, Chairman



Tyson Begly, Secretary/Treasurer