

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
September 7, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heath Schondelmayer, Selvin Hollingsworth, Dallis Copeland, Travis Chambers, Laura Gower, Geniece Granville

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Charles Ray Sheffield

ALSO PRESENT: Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Conner Miller, Robert McKenna, Heather Chason, Tracey Herring, Kristy Bozeman, Rebecca White, Tom Horn, Deborah Kidder, Fady Mansour, Epiphany Jackson, Pam Hodge, Ben Moser

The meeting was called to order by Heath Schondelmayer.

I. WELCOME

- A. August 3, 2023 Minutes - **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Laura Gower, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the August 3, 2023 meeting attached as "Exhibit A."**

II. FINANCES

- A. August Financial Update – Joe Sanders commented on several line items to include revenue, expenses for engineering services, and receiving money for the Atmos property. Joe discussed most cash being in the millage account, accounts payable statuses, and the upcoming audit presentation. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Travis Chambers, the Authority unanimously approved the August 2023 Financial Reports attached as "Exhibit B."**

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- A. Jerald Mitchell presents Economic Development snapshot. He reported the following:
- Jerald reminded the board members about the request for testimonials on doing business in Columbus to be used in economic development promotions.
  - Jerald provided a general summary of strategic and pipeline goals such as land preparation, supporting redevelopment, and maintaining a robust project pipeline. He also commented on challenges with competitive infrastructure, the availability of property assets, and the current target industries.
  - Jerald reported on the strategy for site development and the status of MTP including site priorities and grading costs. Discussed the importance of speed to market, building the pipeline to drive private investment, recent site visits and working proposals. Jerald fielded questions on timing for pad ready sites and what size sites current prospective companies are looking for.
  - Conner Miller provided a workforce development snapshot including ongoing preparations for the upcoming Local Opportunities for Today and Tomorrow (LOTT) expo, and the PIE kickoff event in October called Trailblazers for Tomorrow which focuses on citizenship, entrepreneurship, leadership, and career development. Conner discussed the importance of driving events that focus on developing citizenship and leadership skills to improve the workforce.

- Jerald Mitchell elaborated on the Chamber's progress with workforce and education initiatives to connect industries and manufacturers with local schools to enhance partnerships. He also discussed LOTT in greater detail highlighting the opportunity to help local employers and provide direction to youth.
- Tracey Herring provided a Small Business snapshot including the successful conclusion of the Small Business Summer Series and participation in the Small Business Administration's roadshow. She also discussed the Chamber applying to become a CDFI in the Fall, the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Mayor's roundtable, a networking tour, and Fort Moore's procurement event with UGA's Small Business Development Center. Tracey provided an ARP update including timing, reviewing final applications and the status of disbursing remaining funds. Jerald elaborated on the success of ARP grants and the importance of continuing the mayor's roundtable to assist local businesses.

IV. CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

- A. Pam Hodge provided updates on SPLOST projects, pool construction being scheduled for completion by May 2024, and progress on City Hall. Pam discussed the upcoming Judicial Center presentation at Council next Tuesday and hiring consultants to address security and infrastructure challenges with the jail.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing significant to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Heath discussed CHIPS coalition and their work in economic development. Ben Moser briefly commented on various CHIPS initiatives.

VII. LEGAL ISSUES

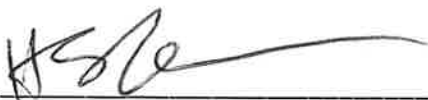
- A. Rob McKenna reported that Total Systems bonds (1990 and 1996) expired and need approval for termination. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Geniece Granville, the Authority unanimously approved the termination of the Total Systems bonds.**

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

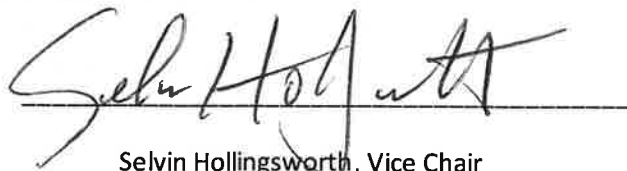
No Executive session called.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNED

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



Heath Schondelmayer, Chairman



Selvin Hollingsworth, Vice Chair