

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
November 2, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heath Schondelmayer, Selvin Hollingsworth, Charles Ray Sheffield, Travis Chambers, Geniece Granville, Laura Gower

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Dallis Copeland

ALSO PRESENT: Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Rob McKenna, Heather Chason, Tracey Herring, Fady Mansour, Christy Bozeman, Katie Quackenbush, Jennifer Bickerstaff, Matt Sellers, Bobby Andrews, Pam Hodge, Brian Sillitto

The meeting was called to order by Heath Schondelmayer.

I. WELCOME

- A. October 5, 2023 Minutes - **Having been distributed prior to the meeting and upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Laura Gower, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting attached as "Exhibit A."**

II. AUDIT REPORT

- A. Bobby Andrews and Matt Sellers presented the audit report – Bobby reported that the audit resulted in no findings. He commented on strategy for balancing governmental and nonprofit accounting between the Development Authority and Columbus Economic Development Corporation. He reviewed the schedule of operations, statement of income, and balance sheet. Bobby also discussed details of the notes on receivables, accounting policies, investments, and debts. Matt Sellers elaborated on previous and current challenges with balancing intercompany between both organizations.

III. FINANCES

- A. October Financial Update – Joe Sanders commented on several line items on the Balance Sheet and Income Statement to include expected revenue from the City, consulting fees, and robotics expenses. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield the Authority unanimously approved the October 2023 Financial Reports attached as "Exhibit B."**

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- A. Jerald Mitchell presents an Economic Development snapshot. He reported the following:
- Jerald recapped strategic and pipeline goals. He also commented on challenges with competitive infrastructure, the availability of property assets, and current project sectors.
  - Jerald reported on recent economic development activity and news including recent site visits and current proposals, advancing site development at Muscogee Technology Park, Pratt & Whitney's groundbreaking with the Governor's attendance, AUSA Robotics Conference, and a visit from Statewide Project Managers.
  - Jerald discussed Chamber branding initiatives to amplify messaging around economic development through media and magazine features. He commented on the significance of Georgia being named the #1 state to do business for the tenth year in a row. Discussion over the increase and impact of social media activity and developing talent attraction campaigns. Heath Schondelmayer commended Katie Quackenbush on her work with marketing and increasing messaging with Choose Columbus.
  - Jerald provided a workforce development snapshot by recapping the success of hosting the Local Opportunities for Today and Tomorrow (LOTT) expo, and the PIE kickoff event called Trailblazers for Tomorrow. Jerald elaborated on the impacts of both events to help combat workforce struggles and supporting industry partners.

- Jerald reported on upcoming Small Business events including the upcoming Fourth Quarter Small Business roundtable with Mayor Henderson and a Small Business Connections Networking Tour. Jerald commented on closing out the ARP program.
- Jerald reported on Government Affairs regarding the upcoming tax study commission, Hub Chamber Council meeting, the elected official's reception, and hosting Governor Kemp, Lt. Governor Jones, and John King. He elaborated on the importance of engagement to defend tax programs that affect small businesses and economic development.

V. CHAMBER REPORT

- A. Jerald reported on executed and upcoming sponsorships including the RushSouth Music Festival, He mentioned the upcoming Business After Hours, Chamber 101, and Health and Wellness summit.

VI. CITY REPORT

- A. Pam Hodge provided updates on Parcel 16 site status, submitting a request to the Development Authority regarding returning property for City use, a new City Cemetery, and judicial center developments. Discussion over marketing progress and future developments as a result of SPLOST and TSPLOST projects.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing significant to report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Brian Sillitto reported on the expiration of the maintenance contract for Corporate Ridge and MTP. Heath suggested conducting an internal audit to develop recommendations on improvements and maintenance plans.
- B. Selvin Hollingsworth mentioned the upcoming Police Chief Conference in January. Discussion over strategy to capitalize on the opportunity to engage with visitors.

IX. LEGAL ISSUES

- A. Rob McKenna reported on the requested extension of the sublease from Waggoner to Georgia Power. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Geniece Granville, the Authority unanimously approved the Sublease Extension from Waggoner to Georgia Power.**
- B. Rob McKenna reported on the termination of TSYS bond for 9 Corporate Ridge to transfer the property back to TSYS. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the Termination of TSYS Bond.**
- C. Rob McKenna reported on the approval of the CHIPS4CHIPS MOU between the City, Development Authority, and United Way. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Geniece Granville, the Authority unanimously approved the CHIPS4CHIPS MOU.**

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive session called.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNED

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



Heath Schondelmayer, Chairman



Selvin Hollingsworth, Vice Chair