

**Development Authority of Columbus, GA
118 W. 11th Street, Suite 102
Columbus, GA 31901
August 11, 2025 – 8:30 AM**

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Selvin Hollingsworth Charles Ray Sheffield Geniece Granville	Laura Gower Audrey Tillman Will White
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Rob McKenna (Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, PC), Missy Kendrick (DACGA), Michelle Phillips (DACGA), Andy Hilmes (DACGA), Joe Sanders (Chamber of Commerce), Pam Hodge (Deputy City Manager)

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Selvin Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM, and a quorum was present.

Minutes

Mr. Hollingsworth asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 10, 2025 meeting. Mr. Will White made the motion and Mr. Charles Ray Sheffield seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Ms. Geniece Granville, Ms. Laura Gower, Ms. Audrey Tillman and Mr. White were all in favor.

Finance Report

July 2025 - Mr. Joe Sanders presented the financial report for July 2025 with Total Liabilities and Equity of \$23,474,523 and Net Income of \$-142,032. Ms. Tillman made a motion to approve the financial report and Mr. White seconded. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Ms. Granville, Ms. Gower, Ms. Tillman and Mr. White voted in favor.

Economic Development Report

Ms. Kendrick reported to the board that she attended the Taiwanese Delegation luncheon. Ms. Kendrick presented Columbus to the delegation. She was also able to meet with leaders from Columbus' sister city, Taichung.

Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority will have a meet and greet on August 28, 2025 to discuss interest in the partnership.

Ms. Kendrick explained that the Business Retention and Expansion Process continues to yield results. To date, there are five possible expansions.

Ms. Kendrick shared with the board that the Development Authority has a contract to keep parcel #9 at Muscogee Technology Park cleared from brush. She also mentioned that Barge is working on an RFP for clearing and grading parcel #13 and parcel #19. Ms. Kendrick noted that the board will review the bids to choose the best proposal.

Ms. Kendrick reported to the board that she is meeting with a group to discuss the plans for developing the South Commons area. She plans to have them create an RFP and help determine next steps.

City Update

Ms. Pam Hodge informed the board there has been a resolution passed to adopt the city of Ginza, Japan as a sister city.

Ms. Hodge informed the board the city is focused on homelessness and a new jail. The new jail will have 1600 beds. The cost will be \$500,000,000. The plan is to have it operational in 4-5 years. The funding source is currently unknown.

Workforce Development

Mr. Andy Hilmes updated the board about the ribbon cutting ceremony that took place on August 23, 2025 for the VECTR Center. Mr. Hilmes noted that it should be operational in the Summer of 2026.

Mr. Hilmes informed the board that he and Ms. Kendrick plan to attend an Entrepreneurship Summit in Korea on October 26-28, 2025. The plans are to potentially visit existing industries and prospects.

Mr. Hilmes noted there will be a Workforce Summit on September 9, 2025. This is the 3rd one this year. The Summit will feature presentations on Columbus State's strategic plan, the VECTR Center, and a new program called Manufacturing Georgia.

Mr. Hilmes reported progress on establishing an Airframe and Power Plant Maintainer (A&P) program in collaboration with Pratt & Whitney, with the first five courses expected to be offered in Columbus by next fall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mr. White made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Mr. Sheffield seconded. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Ms. Granville, Mr. White, Ms. Gower and Ms. Tillman voted in favor.

Accounting Policy Update

Ms. Missy Kendrick informed the board that the accounting policy needed to be updated to reflect the accounting practices of the Development Authority due to questions raised by the Chamber. Mr. Rob McKenna presented the board with an updated accounting policy which removes the references to the Chamber exclusively. Mr. White made a motion to approve the update and grant Ms. Kendrick the authority to make financial decisions on behalf of the Authority. Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Ms. Granville, Mr. White, Ms. Gower and Ms. Tillman voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Selvin Hollingsworth", is written over a horizontal line.

Selvin Hollingsworth
Chairman