

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
April 2, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alfred Blackmar, Russ Carreker, Selvin Hollingsworth, Jacki Lowe, Chris Wightman, Jimmy Yancey

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Heath Schondelmayer

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Josh Beard, Pam Hodge, Sendreka Lakes, Rob McKenna, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Lisa Smith, Katherine Kelly

Russ Carreker, Chairman, noting that a quorum was present and proper notice had been given in accordance with the requirements of Georgia law, called the April 2, 2020 meeting to order.

**MINUTES**

**Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

- Joe Sanders reviewed the reports and explained variances. **Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the March 2020 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Brian Sillitto reported that there was a lot of activity in March and a number of prospect visits. There were three new leads in March which are in early stages of providing information. He is preparing a RFI for one. He gave updates on seven active projects. A number of companies have been interested in the NCR facility. There is some concern about the effect of Covid-19 on the hospitality industry; however, retrofitting of rooms in Marriott is moving forward. The Economic Development Report is attached as Exhibit "C".
- Josh Beard gave an update on the Army's three priorities submitted for the 2022 budget – repairs to Lawson Airfield, demolition of the old Martin Army Hospital, and the robotics development center proposal now coming from the Army. Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahoe is expected to replace Maj. Gen. Gary Brito at a time to be decided.
- Sendreka Lakes gave an update on unemployment situation in Columbus. On a typical day the Department of Labor gets 200 unemployment claims per day. Now there are over 20,000 claims being filed per day. There is confusion as to whether the employee or the employer is responsible for filing the claim. Josh Beard and she are working to get the correct information out to our membership. Brian Sillitto reported on what the Chamber is doing to assist the small businesses. Josh is acting as a clearinghouse to help and the Chamber website has links that members and non-members can use to get helpful information. Efforts through Senator Perdue's office have assisted Chattahoochee and Califormulations get through red tape to be cleared to make hand sanitizer.

**CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT**

Pam Hodge reported that the City is working to determine how to operate and provide services in this new environment. There will be major adjustments in the revenue sources for the budget process. There will be some funding through CBDG which needs to be clarified how it can be used to assist the

community. The City is moving forward with evaluating the Government Center. It is still planned to have the SPLOST on the November ballot.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Russ Carreker reported that Lisa Smith has been appointed to the Authority effective in May. On behalf of the Authority and the community he thanked Jimmy Yancey for his many years of service on the Authority. There will be a proper thank you later.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**LEGAL ISSUES**

- Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously approved the Bill of Sale for disposal of assets by Spartan Nash.
- Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously ratified the execution of termination documents for the NCR (former Panasonic) building which were signed by Russ Carreker and Jacki Lowe.
- Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the acceptance of the Bond Application for Project Icebox.

**OTHER ISSUES**

- Russ Carreker gave an update on the Chamber CEO search.
- Jimmy Yancey made comments and encouraged the Authority to continue creating jobs.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the meeting was adjourned.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell D. Carreker, Chair

NOTE: Minutes approved at May 7, 2020 meeting of Authority but not signed yet since meeting was held via Zoom.