

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
May 7, 2020
Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alfred Blackmar, Russ Carreker, Selvin Hollingsworth, Jacki Lowe, Heath Schondelmayer, Lisa Smith, Chris Wightman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

ALSO PRESENT:

Josh Beard, Pam Hodge, Anna Hurt, Sendreka Lakes, Rob McKenna, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, 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 May 7, 2020 meeting to order.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the April 2, 2020 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Heath Schondelmayer reviewed the reports and explained a few variances. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the April 2020 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".** Brian Sillitto reported that finance committee will be convening to develop 2020-2021 budget. It is anticipated that it would be ready to review at May meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Brian Sillitto reported on two new leads received in April. He gave updates on six active projects. The rehab and retrofit of rooms in Marriott are continuing. The other three hotels construction also continues. Some of the projects have slowed down due to Covid-19. He is working with SLP consultants to set up some zoom meetings with Atlanta area consultants to find out what they see happening in areas and to inform them of sites we have. He is working with Golden Shovel in updating website and developing a MTP page to be interactive for as a marketing tool. This kind of tool will help in the recertification for GRAD sites. There was great media coverage on Califormulations, Chattabrewchee, and HPPE for converting to the manufacturing of hand sanitizer. Califormulations is bringing bottles to the Chamber for organizations that need it. CEDC has a new lease with Kodak. The State is being proactive in identifying companies which might be able to do other things with their processes to help during this time. The Chamber is having video conferences with elected officials and other leaders to give updates of what is going on. Russ Carreker gave an update on the Mercer Medical Campus which is now located on land donated by TSYS. The Economic Development Report is attached as Exhibit "C".
- Josh Beard gave an update on robotics and about Squad X. The Army is asking for an additional \$70M to robotics budget to transition to the efforts and priorities desired at Fort Benning.
- Sendreka Lakes was recently on a call with the State Workforce Development group discussing possible strategies and resources at the state level. The local director and assistant director of local Workforce Board were also on the call. Some of these might be useful in Columbus. She

has had conversations with Mayor Henderson and the local department of labor people looking at some strategies for companies like e-commerce and automation. Some questions relate to the impact on pay such as when people can return to work would it be at same level, will there be new occupational demands, would there be changes in organization structure. Another area is how to get resources to the people who find themselves without employment when this is over. The need for training to transitions is likely.

- Anna Hurt reported it seems like everyone is in a holding pattern with projects.

CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

- Pam Hodge reported that the budget has been submitted to Council. The revenue projections are very conservative. The areas impacted the most will those depending on hotel/motel taxes. She spoke about the decrease statewide in revenue from sale taxes. Atlanta area had large decrease while others had increases which indicates people are shopping more locally than traveling to other areas to shop. Monthly reports on revenues are being made to Council so appropriate decisions can be made. Offices are still closed to public but still providing services. Facilities will be re-opening on May 18. The Civic Center has been and will continue to be used for meeting since it is more suitable for social distancing.
- Russ Carreker reported on zoom call he and Brian had with Mayor Henderson and Pam Hodge and several bankers to discuss possible ways of helping very small businesses which do not qualify for federal grants like PPP. They welcome any ideas and will continue to determine if what others are doing this would be helpful for small businesses. Issues with a program are would there be enough funds to be effective and who would administer the program. Pam Hodge report that there were similar issues discussed on a teleconference she had listened to earlier.

OLD BUSINESS

Russ Carreker asked Brian Sillitto to send the members the I-14 video. The Authority needs to help City promote the initiative. It should be an item in the infrastructure bill. He reported that the Chamber CEO search continues pursuing candidates and setting up interviews. He reported that the new StartUp Columbus is now ready for operations in the Frank Brown Building.

NEW BUSINESS

Already covered.

LEGAL ISSUES

- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously approved (1) the termination of the PCI Bond Issue and the Quitclaim Deed for equipment and (2) the termination of the Kodak Bond Issue and transfer of the property from the Development Authority to the CEDC.**
- **Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the Inducement Resolution for Project Icebox.**

OTHER ISSUES

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority went into an executive session to discuss a legal matter.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Authority adjourned the Executive Session and returned to the regular meeting. There was no action to report from the Executive Session.

Russ Carreker formally welcomed Lisa Smith who is newly appointed to the Authority by the City Council.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the meeting was adjourned.

By: _____
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

Russell D. Carreker, Chair

NOTE: These minutes were approved at the June 4, 2020 meeting of the Authority but were not signed since meeting was held via Zoom.