

**Development Authority of Butts County**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

The Development Authority of Butts County held its monthly meeting on Friday, January 17, 2025 at the Historic Butts County Courthouse, 25 Third Street, Jackson, GA.

Development Authority Members present and comprising a quorum were:

Members	PRESENT	ABSENT	Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Zach Burden	X		Roger McDaniel	X	
John Fisher	X		Alicia Washington	X	
John Harkness	X		Arthur White	X	
Fred Head	X				

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Bob White; Existing Industry/Workforce Development Coordinator, Melissa Griffin, Also in attendance were Ms. Shar’ron Russell-Georgia Power Company, and Mr. Danny Smith, a High Falls area resident..

**I. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Harkness called the meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum was present. On a motion by Mr. Head, seconded by Mr. Arthur White, the Agenda was approved.

**II. Board Items for Discussion and Action**

- a) **Election of Officers**– Chair
- b) Vice Chair
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer

Chairman Harkness opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Head offered a motion to re-elect the current slate of officers for 2025, seconded by Mr. Fisher. The motion was unanimously approved with John Harkness returning as Chair, Arthur White as Vice Chair, Roger McDaniel as Secretary, and Alicia Washington as Treasurer.

**III. Approval of the Minutes - December 13, 2024 Monthly Meeting:**

On a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Burden, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the December 13, 2024, monthly meeting.

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**IV. Financial Reports – December 2024**

- a. Checking IDA
- b. Checking DABC
- c. Credit Cards
- d. Joint Development Authority of Butts & Spalding

On a motion by Mr. Head, seconded by Mr. Arthur White, the Board unanimously approved the Financial Reports as presented.

**IV. Old Business:** There were no Old Business items for discussion

**V. New Business**

- a) **Georgia 2025 Job Tax Credit Update:** Executive Director Bob White advised that the Georgia Job Tax Credit tiers had been announced and that Butts County would have a Tier 3 level for 2025, a change from 2024; however, he noted that two Census tracts within Butts County were designated as “Less Developed Census Tracts” which carry a higher level of incentives when compared to the County’s Tier 3 status.
- b) **Butts County Chamber Day at the Capitol:** Bob White reported that January 28, 2025 would be the Butts County Chamber Day at the Georgia Capitol, and that any Board members wishing to attend should advise staff as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.
- c) **Butts County Chamber Magazine:** Bob White reported that the annual Butts County Chamber Magazine would again be published in 2025, and he presented information on advertising costs to appear in the publication. Mr. White noted that the Authority has previously purchased a full-page advertisement in support of the Chamber’s efforts and cooperation, and he recommended purchasing a full-page advertisement at a cost of \$1,200. On a motion by Mr. Head, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, the Board voted unanimously to purchase a full-page advertisement as recommended.

**VI. Staff Reports and Information –** Executive Director Bob White and Existing Industry/Workforce Development Coordinator, Ms. Melissa Griffin, provided an update on the announcement of the Amazon Web Services project, and Mr. White noted that Dr. Quin Jernigan, Manager, Economic Development Workforce Development, would be in attendance at the February Authority meeting to brief the Board on their upcoming workforce development initiatives in Butts County.

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- VII. Executive Session, Legal and Real Estate:** Chairman Harkness announced that there were two Legal and Real Estate items for discussion in Executive Session. On a motion by Mr. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Head, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Mr. Burden, seconded by Mr. Arthur White, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene the Public Meeting. Action to be taken was as follows: Regarding the first item and on a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Arthur White, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to proceed with the matters as discussed in Executive Session. Regarding Project Toucan and on a motion by Mr. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Arthur White, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chair and Executive Director to proceed with the matters as discussed in Executive Session.

- VIII. Adjournment:** On a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Head, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The Minutes will be officially approved by the Board on February 14, 2025

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**Executive Director**

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**Chairman**