

**Development Authority of Butts County**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

The Development Authority of Butts County held its monthly meeting on Friday, August 11, 2023 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, and Authority Legal Counsel, Mr. Kevin Brown

**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. Fisher, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

a) July 14 2023 – Monthly Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the July 11, 2023, meeting.

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

a) Financial Reports June 2023

- Checking IDA
- Checking DABC
- MasterCard Credit Card
- Joint Development Authority of Butts & Spalding

On a motion by Mr. Head, seconded by Mr. Burden the Board unanimously approved the July Financial Reports as submitted.

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**IV. Old Business**

**a. Public Officials Liability Insurance Policy Renewal** – Executive Director Bob White provided a summary of the Public Officials Liability Insurance coverage to be provided, and a quotation provided by Greenwich Insurance Company through Millenium Insurance of Griffin. The coverages are the same as in the expiring policy, and the renewal premium would be \$2,978, plus a \$195 engineering fee for a total renewal premium of \$3,173. On a motion by Ms. Washington, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, the Board voted unanimously to accept the quote, and authorized payment of the premium and engineering charges totaling \$3,173.00.

**V. New Business** – There were no New Business items for discussion.

**VI. Staff Reports and Information** – In the interest of time and to accommodate the planned Public Comment portion of the Agenda, Executive Director White did not present a separate Staff Report.

**VII. Public Comment** – Chairman Harkness acknowledged the large number of guests in attendance at the meeting, most of them present to express concerns and/or opposition to the Hillwood Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Study being prepared by the Three Rivers Regional Commission, and the potential development of the Development Authority's Riverview Phase II property located adjacent to High Falls Lake. As background, Chairman Harkness noted that there had been a great deal of misinformation regarding development of the Riverview property, and he informed the attendees that the Riverview Phase II property had been purchased some 20 years previously by the Development Authority of Butts County to provide property to be used for expansion of the County's tax base through the recruitment of new industry and its investment, and to provide jobs for Butts County residents...the purposes for which the Development Authority was created. Chairman Harkness also noted that the property in question had been officially rezoned for industrial development some 15 years earlier.

Chairman Harkness advised the attendees that he would allow the group 10 minutes – whether collectively or individually, and any personal attacks would not be tolerated and would result in adjourning of the meeting.

Five representatives from the attendees – Ms. Betty Eskew, Mr. Joe Reed, Mr. William Burnham, Mr. Greg Haire, and Mr. Andy Chappina – all spoke in opposition to the DRI and to any industrial development on the Riverview property, urging the Development Authority to not proceed with development on the property. Those comments were received, and the Public Comment period was closed.

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

The Minutes will be officially approved by the Board on: September 8, 2023

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Executive Director

Chairman