Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, October 27, 2025

Location: 132 E. Spring Street, Monroe, Georgia, 30655 - Conference room

Board Members Present: Morris Jordan (Chairman), Bettye Ray, Melinda Dally, David Thompson, John Howard, Skip Baliles, Tom Carter, Neal Jackson, David Keener

Others Present: Shane Short; Ben McDaniel; Dessa Morris; Jami Cash

1) **Welcome and Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

2) **Adoption of Agenda** –The Board adopted the agenda on a motion by D. Thompson, seconded by John Howard, which passed unanimously.

3) **Approval of Minutes –** Minutes for the 09/29/2025 meeting was presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by N. Jackson, seconded by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

4) **Approval of Financials –** Financials for the month ending 09/31/2025were tabled.

5) **Old Business –**

[N. Jackson arrived]

a) Social Circle Data Center(s) Update – S. Short discussed the ongoing pursuit of data centers. There has been a water agreement with the County and the City of Social Circle; the City of Social Circle's attorney is working on the agreement's language, which will be adopted by the Walton County Board of Commissioners and the City of Social Circle.

b) Legislative Breakfast– S. Short updated the Board on the Legislative Breakfast held in conjunction with the Walton County Chamber of Commerce. Most of the concerns involved GDOT issues. S. Short plans to schedule and host a meeting with the county and cities with GDOT.

6) **New Business –**

a) JDA Economic Development- S. Short informed the board of a large-scale economic development project considering the remaining eighty-eight acres at Stanton Springs.

7) **Walton Works Report** – D. Morris and J. Cash discussed various initiatives and events, including meetings with high schools, the Career Expo, and the Georgia DOE Conference, where they were guest speakers.

8) **Economic Development Report** – B. McDaniel presented on current projects and various project inquiries.

9) **Executive Director Report –** S. Short informed the Board that SMI Industries in Social Circle won the Manufacturer of the Year Award. A crystal award was presented at their place of business, and a proclamation was read at the October Board of Commissioners Meeting.

10) **Announcements/Other Business** – S. Short reminded the Board that the November and December Board meeting is combined and will be held on December 8, 2025

11) **Executive Session** – None.

12) **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 9:20 a.m. on a motion by J. Howard, seconded by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.