

Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 31, 2025

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

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

Others Present: Shane Short, Executive Director; Ben McDaniel, VP of Economic Development; Dessa Morris; Jami Cash; Chris Atkinson, Attorney

- 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 T. Carter, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes for the February 24, 2025, meeting were presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by B. Ray, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously.
- 4) **Approval of Financials** – Financials for the month ending 02/29/2025 were approved on a motion by J. Howard, second by S. Baliles, which passed unanimously.
- 5) **Old Business** –
 - a) Rivian Update – S. Short discussed the meeting with Rivian executives at Oxford College, and the scheduled meeting between Rivian and the Governor on April 15.
- 6) **New Business** –
 - a) AFLAC benefits – S. Short discussed the AFLAC coverage for accident, cancer, short term disability for all employees for a total of \$600-800/month. Such coverage/benefits were approved on a motion by D. Thompson, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously.
 - Piedmont Regional Industrial Park – S. Short discussed obtaining updated due diligence reports to better and more efficiently market the property. The Board approved obtaining an updated Geotechnical report (at a cost of \$13,500) on a motion by J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously. The Board approved obtaining

an updated archaeological studies (at a cost of \$32,000) on a motion by J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

- 7) **Walton Works Report** – D. Morris and J. Cash discussed various initiatives and events, including regional job fair March 25 (with 412 job seekers, 351 of which were from Walton); Adulting day @ Social Circle High School; Public safety tour; Be Pro Be Proud (1600+ people attended).
- 8) **Economic Development Report** – B. McDaniel presented on current projects.
- 9) **Executive Director Report** – S. Short discussed various events and projects, including obtaining worker's comp; Social Circle City retreat; 2 hour annual training; Electric Cities of GA (ECG) Economic Development Summit; and TSPLOST.
- 10) **Announcements/Other Business** – None.
- 11) **Executive Session** – None.
- 12) **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 9:22 a.m. on a motion by D. Thompson, second by M. Dally, which passed unanimously.