Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 30, 2026

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

Board Members Present: Morris Jordan (Chairman), Bettye Ray, Melinda Dally, David Thompson, Tom Carter, David Keener, Branden Whitfield

Others Present: Shane Short; John Ward; Dessa Morris; Jami Cash; Ben McDaniel; 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 D. Keener, second by M. Dally, which passed unanimously.

3) **Swearing In Ceremony –** City of Loganville Mayor Branden Whitfield was sworn in by Authority attorney (Chris Atkinson). (signed oath of office on file)

4) **Approval of Minutes –** Minutes for the February 3, 2026, meeting were presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by B. Ray, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

5) **Approval of Financials –** Financials for the month ending 2/28/2026, were presented, and were approved on a motion by D. Thompson, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

6) **Old Business –**

   a) Social Circle Data Centers Update – S. Short discussed Project Lighthouse, with closing anticipated in near future.

   b) 250th Fourth of July Celebration – Stars & Stripes Trail – S. Short discussed various events and efforts related to celebration. A website has been created for the celebration – www.walton250.com.

   c) Rivian Purchase – S. Short advised the vehicle purchase has been completed.

   d) ICE Detention Facility – S. Short advised that the Department of Homeland Security has purchased Social Circle building.

e) Social Circle Economic Development – S. Short advised that the Committee's anticipated meeting with the City of Social Circle representatives has been postponed due to the City's work related to ICE Detention Facility.

f) Updated Landscaping – S. Short stated that new landscaping improvements have been made around the Authority's building.

7) **New Business –**

a) Athens Technical College Groundbreaking: Monroe Campus – S. Short announced the groundbreaking ceremony will be held on May 22, 2026, for the facility located at 212 Bryant Road, Monroe, GA 30655.

8) **Walton Works Report** – D. Morris and J. Cash discussed various initiatives and events, including completion of Wage and Benefit Survey; Regional Job Fair held on March 18, 2026, and the upcoming Workforce Innovation Summit.

9) **Economic Development Report** – B. McDaniel discussed various projects and initiatives, including updates on Rivian site work; Project Seadragon (soy sauce manufacturer); a Dycom training facility (fiber optic installation training); and B. McDaniel's presentation to Walton County Chamber of Commerce.

10) **President & CEO Report –** None.

11) **Announcements/Other Business** – None

12) **Executive Session** – None

13) **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 9:05 a.m. on a motion by D. Keener, second by M. Dally, which passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2026