Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, May 18, 2026

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

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

Others Present: Shane Short; John Ward; Dessa Morris; Jami Cash; Ben McDaniel; Chris Atkinson, Attorney; Logan Propes

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 J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

3) **Approval of Minutes –** Minutes for the March 30, 2026, meeting were presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by D. Keener, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.

4) **Approval of Financials –** Financials for the months ending 3/31/2026 and 4/30/2026, were presented, and were approved on a motion by D. Keener, second by B. Whitfield, which passed unanimously.

5) **Old Business –**

   a) Social Circle Data Centers Update – S. Short discussed potential tax abatement schedule for Project Lighthouse and PILOT structure.

   b) Athens Technical College Groundbreaking – S. Short advised that groundbreaking would take place Friday, May 22 at 10:30am.

6) **New Business –**

   a) Consideration of Contract with Thomas & Hutton Engineering – S. Short presented agreement and discussed T&H firm's experience in data centers and similar projects. The Board approved the agreement on a motion by J. Howard, second by T. Carter, which passed unanimously (note: D. Thompson abstained from vote due to ongoing negotiations for Project Lighthouse).

7) **Walton Works Report** – D. Morris and J. Cash discussed various initiatives and events, including Big Hire event for graduating high school seniors, laptop giveaway, and Georgia Reads.

8) **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).

9) **President & CEO Report –** S. Short discussed the passing of longtime Board member Neal Jackson, and the Board approved naming the Authority conference room in Neal Jackson's honor on a motion by J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

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

11) **Executive Session** –

a) The Board went into executive session at 9:28 a.m. to discuss real estate matters on a motion by J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

b) The Board exited executive session and entered back into regular session at 9:39 a.m. on a motion by D. Thompson, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously. The Board did not take any votes in Executive Session.

12) **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 9:39 a.m. on a motion by J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Monday, June 29, 2026