Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, June 29, 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

Others Present: Shane Short; Dessa Morris; Ben McDaniel; Chris Atkinson, Attorney

1) **Welcome and Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

2) **Adoption of Agenda** – The Board adopted the agenda on a motion by D. Thompson, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.

3) **Appointment of Vice Chair** – the Board appointed Melinda Dally as Vice Chair, on a motion by M. Jordan, second by D. Thompson, which passed unanimously.

4) **Approval of Minutes –** Minutes for the May 18, 2026, meeting were presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by M. Dally, second by T. Carter, which passed unanimously.

5) **Approval of Financials –** Summary of financials for the month of May 2026 were presented, along with direction to move $1miilion to a certificate of deposit, all of which were approved on a motion by B. Ray, second by M. Dally, which passed unanimously.

6) **Old Business –**

   a) Social Circle Data Centers Update – S. Short advised that Project Lighthouse was on hold indefinitely, pending the company's resolution of issues with Georgia Power.

   b) Walton 250 Celebrations – S. Short presented walton250.com and discussed community events of the week leading to Independence Day.

7) **New Business –**

   a) Piedmont Regional (beaver removal and bush hogging) – S. Short discussed beaver removal efforts as well as upcoming bush hogging.

   b) Two Historic Downtown Monroe properties (RFP) – S. Short discussed the two downtown Monroe properties to be deeded from the County (111 Spring Street and 203 Milledge)

c) Appointment to vacancy on DAWC Board – S. Short presented Lee Garrett as replacement for Neal Jackson (deceased) on the Authority board. The Board approved the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on a motion by D. Thompson, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.

8) **Walton Works Report** – D. Morris discussed various initiatives and events, including education externships, and schedule of workforce events for 2026-2027. J. Cash is presenting at GMA conference.

9) **Economic Development Report** – B. McDaniel discussed various projects and initiatives, including updates on Rivian site work; construction of Dycom training facility (fiber optic installation training).

10) **President & CEO Report –** S. Short discussed the Life of Bethlehem property on Highway 78, which was recently repossessed by the bank.

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

12) **Executive Session** –

a) The Board went into executive session at 9:28 a.m. to discuss personnel matters on a motion by T. Carter, second by D. Thompson, which passed unanimously.

b) The Board exited executive session and entered back into regular session at 10:09 a.m. on a motion by M. Dally, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously. The Board did not take any votes in Executive Session.

The Board approved the organizational restructuring designating D. Morris as Senior VP of Industry Relations and J. Cash as VP of Workforce and Education, on a motion by D. Thompson, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.

13) **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 10:10 a.m. on a motion by D. Thompson, second by T. Carter, which passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Monday, August 31, 2026