Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, August 31, 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, John Howard, Brandon Whitfield

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

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, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.

3) **Approval of Minutes –** Minutes for the June 29, 2026, meeting were presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by D. Keener, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously.

4) **Approval of Financials –** Summary of financials for the month ending July 31, 2026 were presented, which were approved on a motion by D. Thompson, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.

5) **Existing Industry Business Relations Report** – D. Morris discussed various initiatives and events, including median income data and Athens Tech expansion.

6) **Walton Works Report** – J. Cash discussed various initiatives and events, including Rivian education meeting, and Career Connections expo.

7) **Old Business –**

   a) Social Circle Data Centers Update – S. Short advised that Project Lighthouse was likely not happening, and other companies continued to look at properties.

   b) Piedmont Regional Cultural Resources Findings – S. Short discussed findings regarding Battle of Jacks Creek and other matters.

   c) Two Downtown Properties – S. Short advised that proposals have been received and transmitted to Board of Commissioners.

8) **New Business –**

a) Purchase and Sale Agreement of 30 acres at Piedmont Regional Industrial Park – S. Short advised that sale would be to Delta X at $60,000 per acre. Board approved the agreement on a motion by D. Thompson, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously.

b) Purchase and Sale Agreement of 13.48 acres at Piedmont Regional Industrial Park – S. Short advised that sale would be to Insize at $40,000 per acre (awkward size and usability). Board approved the agreement on a motion by J. Howard, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously.

9) **Economic Development Report** – B. McDaniel discussed various projects and initiatives.

10) **President & CEO Report –** n/a.

11) **Announcements/Other Business** – J. Ward announced to Board that Walton County had achieved AAA bond rating (1 of 5 counties in entire state to achieve).

12) **Executive Session** –

a) The Board went into executive session at 9:30 a.m. to discuss personnel matters on a motion by J. Howard, second by T. Carter, which passed unanimously.

b) The Board exited executive session and entered back into regular session at 9:48 a.m. on a motion by D. Thompson, second by D. Keener, which passed unanimously. The Board did not take any votes in Executive Session.

13) **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 9:49 a.m. on a motion by D. Keener, second by J. Howard, which passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2026