



117 Putnam Drive ◊ Eatonton, GA 31024 ◊ Tel: 706-485-1884
www.putnamdevelopmentauthority.com

Minutes
Friday, August 14, 2020 ◊ 9:00 AM

The Putnam Development Authority met on Friday, August 14, 2020 at approximately 9:00 AM via conference call.

PRESENT

Chairman Walt Rocker III
Member Patty Burns
Member Mylle Mangum
Member Eugene Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Member John Wojtas

OTHERS PRESENT

Attorney Kevin Brown
Interim Economic Development Director Pat Topping
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Call to Order

Chairman Rocker called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 a.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes.)

Minutes

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting
- b. July 20, 2020 Executive Session

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2020 Executive Session and the July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting with one correction to the Interim Economic Development Director's Report: item 3-Project Club needs 123,000 square feet (not 132 square feet).

Motion made by Member Smith, Seconded by Member Mangum.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum, Member Smith

Financials

3. Approval of Financials - July 2020

Member Burns reviewed the financials.

Motion to approve the July 2020 Financials.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum, Member Smith

(Copy of financials made a part of the minutes.)

Reports

4. Interim Economic Development Director's Report

Interim EDD Topping reporting the following:

- Statewide Project Activity
 - 36 new and expansion projects
 - \$559 million investment
 - 3229 new jobs
- Partners Contacted
- Business & Industry Company Contacts
 - Interfor - expansion update
 - Cosmo Cabinets - workforce expansion
- Project Status - 5 active projects
 - Project Club – Manufacturing – Investment \$20,000,000 – 100 jobs
 - Project Lake – Distribution Center – Investment TBD
 - Project Anchor – Hotel – Investment \$50,000,000
 - Project Scott – Mixed Use – Investment \$210,000,000
 - Project Cosmo – Manufacturing – Investment TBD
- Website Visitor Sessions and Statistics
- Social Media
 - 534 Facebook Followers
 - 59 Linked-In Followers
 - 270 Instagram Followers
 - 34 Twitter Followers
- Events Attended and Upcoming Events

Regular Business

5. Putnam General Hospital Referendum

Bob Betzel and Alan Horton participated in the meeting representing Putnam General Hospital. Mr. Horton advised the authority about the upcoming referendum to ask voters to support the county commissioners implementing a 1 mill property tax to enable the hospital to retire debt. This would be for a maximum of six years or an amount not to exceed \$7.8M. The hospital is working to educate the community and asked for the endorsement of the PDA to use in advertisements promoting the referendum. The Chamber of Commerce has already voted in favor of supporting this referendum.

Motion to affirm support of Putnam General Hospital, which plays a crucial role in the PDA's mission of economic development, in seeking additional public financial assistance for the Hospital's needs.

Motion made by Member Mangum, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum

Voting Abstaining: Member Smith

6. Approval of Rental Agreement between the Putnam Development Authority and State

Properties Commission on behalf of the Technical College System of Georgia
Attorney Brown talked to Jeff Scruggs, VP of CGTC and asked if the college would be able to help with costs of building maintenance. As the tenant, they are open to it, but have not been able to confirm this with the State Properties Commission. The authority would like the board of commissioners to contract with the PDA to pay for major items.

Motion to present the Rental Agreement between the Putnam Development Authority and State Properties Commission on behalf of the Technical College System of Georgia to the county commission to ask if they are aware of it and if they want the authority to undertake the liability and is the commission willing to reimburse authority as costs occur.

Motion made by Member Smith, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum, Member Smith

(Copy of proposed agreement made a part of the minutes.)

7. FY2021 Budget Report

The board of commissioners will be holding a budget public hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and will be approving the FY21 budget on August 28, 2020. No action was taken.

8. Interfor Update

This item was discussed during the EDD Report.

9. Authorization for Chairman to sign documents from Georgia Department of Transportation

a. Option for Right of Way

b. Right of Entry

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Option for Right of Way and Right of Entry documents from the Georgia Department of Transportation subject to Georgia Fall Line's concurrence.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum, Member Smith

(Copy of documents made a part of the minutes.)

Other Business

10. Other Business

EDD Topping commented on two authority member requests from the July 20, 2020 meeting:

- updated social media statistics were included in his EDD report
- third party branding evaluations - EDD Topping has reached out to a company and will contact a few more

Next Meeting Items

11. Next Meeting Items

Addition to the next meeting: third party branding evaluation update from EDD Topping

Executive Session

12. Enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4, if necessary, for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate

Motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for litigation and real estate and personnel purposes.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Mangum.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum

(Member Smith was not available)

Meeting closed at approximately 10:01 a.m.

13. Reopen meeting and execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

Motion to reopen the meeting and execute the affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum, Member Smith

Meeting reopened at approximately 10:37 a.m.

14. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session

Motion to authorize the chairman and Economic Development Director to proceed with the job description and advertisement as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by Member Mangum, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Mangum, Member Smith

Closing

15. Adjournment

Chairman Rocker adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:38 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Walt Rocker III
Chairman