



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

Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2020 ♦ 9:00 AM

The Putnam Development Authority met on Monday, May 11, 2020 at approximately 9:00 AM via conference call.

PRESENT

Chairman Walt Rucker III
Member Patty Burns
Member John Wojtas

ABSENT

Member Eugene Smith

OTHERS PRESENT

Attorney Kevin Brown
Economic Development Consultant Pat Topping
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Call to Order

Chairman Rucker called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes.)

2. SIP Site Update with Paul Simonton

Mr. Paul Simonton gave an update on the SIP site. Road paving has been completed by Southern Asphalt. The original contractor, Taylor & Sons, has walked away from the project. Southern Asphalt has volunteered to complete the project at a cost of \$147,000, which is about twice the amount of available funds. Final striping, erosion, grading and grassing are still to be done. Paul is sending info to Attorney Brown and he and one of his associates will contact the bonding company.

Minutes

3. Approval of Minutes

a. April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.

Motion made by Member Wojtas, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

b. April 13, 2020 Executive Session

Motion to approve the April 13, 2020 Executive Session minutes.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Wojtas.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

Financials

4. Approval of Financials - April 2020

Member Burns reviewed the financial reports. There is approximately 80% of the budget remaining for this year.

Motion to approve the April 2020 Financials.

Motion made by Member Wojtas, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

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

Regular Business

5. Ratification of the Engagement of Mr. Pat Topping as Economic Development Consultant

Motion to ratify the engagement of Mr. Pat Topping as Economic Development Consultant.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Wojtas.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

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

6. Pat Topping / Introduction and Update on Work

Mr. Pat Topping introduced himself and stated that he has been in economic development for 25+ years; most of the time in Macon. He advised that he has reviewed the PDA website and some others that promote Putnam County and drove around Putnam, including visits to both industrial parks. He has talked with Matt Forshee, Community Development Manager with Georgia Power, about the target industry project started when Terry Schwindler was here. Mr. Forshee suggested redoing it since the original report is 9 months old.

Chairman Rocker discussed the need for a long-term plan. He advised setting up a meeting with community leaders to generate a strategic plan that has their buy in. Chairman Rocker and Mr. Topping will come up with names and get a meeting set up as soon as possible.

Mr. Topping advised that goals are needed before a budget can be formulated. Development Authorities around the state are funded in different ways including funding contracts from county/city/chamber; dedicated mil; line item in budget from city/county.

Chairman Rockers believes the PDA needs more financial autonomy and the county is willing to let PDA handle all their own bookkeeping. The board would still need to find a person that can work and learn underneath Mr. Topping.

7. Ratification of Letter to GDOT Concerning ROW Options

Attorney Brown advised that GDOT is widening Highway 441 and will be taking about 200 feet of the Rock Eagle Technology Park property, including two front lots and the sign. GDOT is offering \$90,000 and we are asking for another \$80,000 to cover expenses.

Motion to ratify the letter to GDOT concerning ROW options.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Wojtas.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

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

8. CGTC Lease Agreement

Attorney Brown explained that it is a little bit unusual to have zero rent, yet the authority has sole responsibility for the maintenance of the Central Georgia Technical College building. The current contract ends June 30, 2020 and if the board needs more time to review a one-year renewal could be done instead of the requested eight years.

Chairman Rocker tasked Attorney Brown and Mr. Topping to reach out to CGTC and the board will take this up again at their June meeting.

9. PDA Bookkeeping Options

Discussed during agenda item #6.

Other Business

10. Other Business

Chairman Rocker advised that the Georgia Writer's Museum would like to move the mural hanging on the side of the Old Hotel Eatonton to the side of the Pex Theater. There was no objection. He also mentioned that there is an original mural there that could be restored as others in the city have been done. He will get info from UGA on costs to restore the former mural.

Meeting recessed at approximately 10:07 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Executive Session (added)

10.1. 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 for personnel & litigation.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Wojtas.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

Meeting closed at approximately 10:11 a.m.

10.2. 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 Wojtas, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

Meeting reopened at approximately 10:27 a.m.

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

Motion to authorize the Chairman to handle emergency erosion issues at the SIP up to \$10,000.

Motion made by Member Burns, Seconded by Member Wojtas

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas.

Next Meeting Items

11. Next Meeting Items

None

Closing

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Member Wojtas, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Wojtas

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:28 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Walt Rocker III
Chairman