



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

Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 ♦ 4:30 PM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam Development Authority met on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at approximately 4:30 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

Chairman Walt Rocker III
Member Patty Burns
Member Brice Doolittle
Member Mylle Mangum
Member John Wojtas (via phone)

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 4:35 p.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes.)

Minutes

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting
- b. May 11, 2021 Executive Session

Motion to approve the May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes.

Motion made by Member Mangum, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Doolittle, Member Mangum, Member Wojtas

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Financials

3. Approval of Financials - May 2021

Member Burns reviewed the May 2021 financials. Chairman Rocker inquired about an invoice from Seyfarth Shaw for approximately \$20,000 and an invoice from Outdoor Solutions.

Attorney Brown advised that these invoices should be submitted to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to be turned in towards the OneGeorgia Grant, along with the invoice from Paul Simonton.

Motion to approve the May 2021 Financials.

Motion made by Member Mangum, Seconded by Member Wojtas.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Doolittle, Member Mangum, Member Wojtas

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

Reports

4. Economic Development Director Report

Interim EDD Topping reported the following: (copy of report made a part of the minutes.)

- Georgia is the #1 state for business for the 8th consecutive year by Site Selection Magazine
- For FY21 so far:
 - 257 new projects statewide
 - 24,000+ new jobs
 - \$8.43B total investments
- Business & Industry Company Contacts
- Project Status
 - New Project – Project Bruzze – 2,400 sf new construction; food, hospitality; jobs and investment TBD; site next step
 - Project Connect – The Retreat of Atlanta – 50-70 new jobs, annual payroll \$2.5M - \$3.5M; scheduled to open Summer 2021
 - Project Legacy – Active status - Private developer looking at Historic Hotel Eatonton; prospect developing LOI; investment and jobs to be determined; working with developers for 6+ months
 - Project Anchor – Active status – Private developer developing site for a lakefront hotel; has hired a hotel consultant to identify potential hotel operators; 175 jobs; \$50 Million investment
 - Project Solar – On hold
 - Project Grace (formerly Hand Up) – Active status – Goodwill – Helms College in Middle GA and the CSRA has plans to make a \$6 million investment to build a multi-purpose center in the Lake Country; local developer
 - Project Gum – Active status – Existing manufacturing company looking to expand and add 45 jobs, investment to be determined; looking at existing building or expanding current location; monthly contact
 - Project Club – Dropped
- Existing Companies Adding Jobs
 - Bluestem/Haband – job fairs, CGTC May 1
 - Interfor – Virtual job fair May 11
 - Legacy Housing

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- Cosmo Cabinets
- UFP
- KaMin
- Activ Materials
- Ttg Imaging Solutions
- Open Jobs in Region
 - 11 counties: 8826
 - Baldwin: 1083
 - Jones: 1243
 - Putnam: 1048
 - Twiggs: 366
 - Wilkinson: 949
- Unemployment and Wages survey
- GRAD Update
 - Studies updated
 - Phase 1 Environmental – completed May 6
 - Wetlands Survey – in progress
 - Support Letters (12)
 - Site Ownership
 - Utilities – energy, natural gas, telecom, water, sewer
 - Fire – City and County
 - EMS
 - Transportation
 - Planning and Development
- Website Visitor Sessions
- Website Visitor Stats
 - 291 sessions
 - 951 pageviews
 - 88% new visitors
- Social Media
 - 656 Facebook Followers
 - 95 Linked-In Followers
 - 366 Instagram Followers
 - 43 Twitter Followers
- Virtual Meetings & Events Attended
 - 5/12 – Tour Project Grace Site
 - 5/14 – Project Grace Community Meeting
 - 5/19-21 – GEDA Spring Workshop at Lake Lanier
 - 5/26 – EPTAHP Board Meeting
 - 6/4 – Putnam Board of Commissioners Meeting
- GEDA Spring Workshop – May 19-21, 2021 at Legacy Lodge at Lanier Islands
 - Attendance over 200 including State Project Managers
 - Topics include: Regionalism as an effective Strategy; Marketing your community; Workforce ideas that work; Challenges – workforce; Challenges in space; Recruitment; Project Location Case Study; Government Impace on Economic Development

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- Upcoming Meetings and Events
 - 6/11 – Project Grace Community Meeting
- Upcoming Events and Projects
 - Web Site review/revamp
 - Industrial Park Sign Program
 - Strategy Session facilitated by GA Power
 - GRAD Application

Regular Business

5. FY22 Budget

This item was moved to follow the Executive Session.

Other Business

6. Other Business

None

Next Meeting Items

7. Next Meeting Items

None

Executive Session

8. 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. for Personnel and Litigation.

Motion made by Member Mangum, Seconded by Member Burns.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Doolittle, Member Mangum, Member Wojtas

Meeting closed at approximately 5:08 p.m.

9. 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 Mangum.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Doolittle, Member Mangum, Member Wojtas

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

Meeting reopened at approximately 5:24 p.m.

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

Motion to authorize the Chairman to proceed as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by Member Wojtas, Seconded by Member Mangum.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Doolittle, Member Mangum, Member Wojtas

FY22 Budget

Chairman Rocker advised that he and EDD Topping will work on the proposed FY22 budget based on the Executive Session action. It will be circulated to all board members and turned in to the county by June 28th.

Closing

11. Adjournment

Chairman Rocker advised that the July meeting may need to be changed due to scheduling conflicts. He will get with everyone to check their calendars.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Member Doolittle, Seconded by Member Mangum.

Voting Yea: Chairman Rocker, Member Burns, Member Doolittle, Member Mangum, Member Wojtas

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Walt Rocker III
Chairman

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