

BRUNSWICK COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting
116 W. Hicks Street – IDA Office
December 1, 2020
6:00 P.M.

IDA Board Meeting Minutes

The following Board Members were present:

Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Member, Chair, Sturgeon District
Mr. Ray Thomas, Member, Secretary/Treasurer, At-Large
Mr. George Smith, Member, Totaro District
Mr. Will Ford, Member, Meherrin District
Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., Member, At-Large

Also present:

Mr. Michael Dotti, Business Director
Dr. Alfonzo R. Seward, Board of Supervisors, Sturgeon District
Ms. Alfreda Jarrett Reynolds, Economic Director, Brunswick County
Ms. Tessie Bacon, IDA Attorney
Mr. Anthony Taylor, Town Council, Town of Alberta

The following were absent:

Mr. Morris Taylor, Member, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District
Ms. Arnika Green, Member, Powellton District
Mr. Buck Brockwell, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Lawrenceville
Dr. Charlette Woolridge, County Administrator Ex-Officio Member
Mayor Curt Williams, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Alberta
Mayor Don Dugger, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Brodnax

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Invocation

The Chair began the meeting with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Melissa Boucher requested the following items be added to the Agenda: Item “V. Special Meeting Minutes November 24, 2020.”

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Dr. Arthur Jarrett to approve the Agenda with the changes as requested.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Citizens Comments

Ms. Monica McMillan – Lawrenceville VA. Ms. McMillan stated to the Board that she came to the meeting tonight because she left a petition with the IDA Chair that had 135 signatures and she hadn't heard a response from the Board in regards to her concerns.

V. Approval of Minutes

Regularly Scheduled Meeting – November 10, 2020

Special Meeting – November 24, 2020

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Dr. Arthur Jarrett to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 Regularly Scheduled and November 24, 2020 Special Board meetings.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

VI. Consent Agenda

Ms. Melissa Boucher said to the Board that Trina Stahl the IDA accountant will be at the January Board Meeting and will bring everyone up to date on all the financial statements.

VII. New Business

A. Statement from IDA Chair – Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods

We are taking this time to address the issues that were brought to our Board's attention at our regularly scheduled meeting on November 10, 2020.

We would also like to address an article in the Brunswick Times Gazette dated November 18, 2020.

The issue presented to the Board concerning Mr. Dotti is a personnel matter and it is being addressed as such by the Board.

In reference to the Brunswick Times Gazette Article dated November 18, 2020, there are several things that need to be clarified by the IDA Board as set forth in the article.

1. The Facebook post was inappropriate to many but it was not a threat to Mr. Biden's life.

2. The Echo World transaction was not a grant. It was a loan with a note and a repayment schedule. The amount was \$100,000.00 not \$120,000.00.

3. The last paragraph of the article in the Brunswick Times Gazette listed comments as quoted from our November 10, 2020 meeting that were not stated in that meeting. This can be verified by the minutes of that meeting and the recording from that meeting. I addressed Echo World in the above statement.

4. The article states "This is the second business that the IDA Director has given out large sums of money to and the businesses have left" Assuming that this statement is referencing the KASS Project, the current IDA Business Director was not in the Business Director position when the transaction for KASS was finalized. Mr. Dotti at that time had been appointed as a Board Member to represent Meherrin District. In that position, IDA records will reflect that Mr. Dotti voted against the KASS Project. Records will

also reflect that despite having previous reservations about KASS, in his position as IDA Business Director, he was diligent toward the success of the project.

5. The characterization of grant monies from IDA being used to open Long and Foster is incorrect. In fact, the IDA has given no money to Long and Foster in the form of a grant, loan or otherwise.

6. The Business Director has no separate authority to disburse funds, give loans or make grants as described in the Brunswick Times Gazette article without Board Approval and Board Oversight.

VIII. Old Business

A. 225 & 227 N. Main Street Inspection

The Business Director told the Board that an inspection was done on the building and to repair the building to an operating standpoint would be \$195,000. The amount is much higher than expected and there is also a leak from that building into the adjoining building. Green mold is the main problem in the building.

B. Acrylic Shields

The Business Director said to the Board that the IDA has obtained an acrylic shield estimate for the front of the office for \$1,800 that grant money will cover.

C. Essay Contest

The Business Director said that we have chosen the two winners for the Essay Contest Titled “What the 300th Anniversary of Brunswick County Means to you?” The first place winner of \$750 is Sherilya Hicks and the second place winner of \$500 is Cabre Walker. We had a total of 16 essays submitted for the contest.

IX. Directors Report

2020 was a year of many accomplishments and a few disappointments and lots of learning. We faced the challenges of COVID, working from home, and staff health issues with determination and an attitude of community first. We used our website to provide as much disclosure of our activities as we can. We provided grants, community center leadership and funding. We have a solidified Economic Development Team with Alfreda Reynolds, BC Economic Development Director. We have an incredible working relationship with the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors. We created an Agricultural Taskforce to explore, develop and execute economic renewal. Collaborating with Southside Planning, district and better understand their resources of knowledge and funding. We have worked with entrepreneurs, community activists and charitable organization to help, lead and most importantly better define our role. We have learned that our impact is far reaching and people care what we think. That we have a responsibility to lead and encourage.

2021 is already looking to be a year of big announcements and continued renewal. We invite the community to continue to let us know how you feel and how we can improve. We work for the citizens of Brunswick County.

Disappointments

KASS killed by COVID 19

Under Construction

319 North Main Apartments

315 N Main Apartments

Opened

Flowers on Main

Pop's

James River Cardiology

Grant or other Assistance Provided

Mosley's General Store

Lake Gaston County Store

Brunswick Community Center

Pop's

Echo World Call Center

Flowers on Main

Lawrenceville Historic District Expansion

Longwood University Small Business Consulting SBDC

Leased for Purchase and Business Creation or Expansion

127 Hicks Street

304 New Hicks Street

Grants Received

\$75,000.00 Tobacco Commission

Other Accomplishments

Free Social Media Advertising for business

Free Business Directory on Website

Longwood Small Business Services

Licensed Drone Operator

Improved Website Updating

Movie Night at Brunswick Senior High

St Paul's Task Force

Completed Phase 1 of Sledge & Barkley Study

Established Agriculture Task Force

X. Committee Reports

A. Personnel/Executive – No Report

B. Finance – No Report

C. Property/Land Management – No Report

D. Prospect –No Report

XI. IDA Board of Directors Comments

Ms. Melissa Boucher wanted to remind the Board members that the Director Evaluation is due by December 31st to the IDA Chair.

Mr. Ray Thomas said it has been an interesting year and he looks forward to what the next year brings. He said he would like the 16 essays put into a pamphlet or a booklet. The discussion of the essay contest continued with Mr. Dotti, Ms. Menyweather-Woods, and Mr. Thomas about how impressed they were with the essay contents and the lengths the students went to to present Brunswick County. The essays will be presented in different ways.

Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods presented Mr. Mike Dotti with a Community Service Award.

XII. Closed Session

No Closed Session

XIII. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. George Smith, that the meeting be adjourned.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

The December 1, 2020 Board of Directors meeting of the Brunswick County Industrial Development Authority was adjourned at 6:20p.m.