

Secretary's initials of approval _____

Preparer's initials _____

BRUNSWICK COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

100 Athletic Field Road
Brunswick County Conference Center
December 13, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

IDA Board Meeting Minutes

The following Board Members were present:

Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Chair, Sturgeon District
Mr. Morris Taylor, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District
Mr. Ray Thomas, Secretary / Treasurer, At-Large
Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., At-Large
Mr. Quintin Kelly, Powellton District
Mr. Will Ford, Meherrin District
Dr. Ronald Thornhill, Totaro District

Also Present:

Mr. Michael Dotti, Executive Director
Ms. Tessie Bacon, IDA Attorney
Ms. Alfreda Jarrett-Reynolds, Economic Director, Brunswick County
Ms. Leslie Weddington, County Administrator, Brunswick County
Dr. Alfonzo R. Seward, Business Liaison, Brunswick County Board of Directors
Ms. Anne Williams, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Lawrenceville

The following were absent:

Mayor Don Dugger, Ex-Officio Member, Town of Brodnax
Ms. Rebecca Spengler, Acting Mayor of Alberta

I. Call to Order

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

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Quintin Kelly gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Special Presentation

The Executive Director begin his speech addressing the Veterans, Citizens and Elected Officials.

"We thank each of you for your service, recently Mr. George Smith resigned from the IDA Board to focus on other areas of his life. Mr. Smith's commitment as a leader, fighting for voting rights in Brunswick County, to the State of Virginia and the US Army in which he serviced in our Country. Thank You Mr. Smith for your leadership and advice".

The Chair Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, began her speech to Mr. Smith by addressing the Board and citizens.

“Mr. George Smith you are one in a million. I’m from a generation that was taught to treasure, to uphold and to respect our elders. Those that have paved the way for us and you were one of those people. In 2005, Oprah Winfrey had a gathering where she honored woman that have made a difference, like Coretta Scott King and Maya Angelou, Pearl Cleage wrote a poem for that occasion for those women. She said “We Speak Your Name”, to me that’s always been a powerful phrase and tonight “I Speak Your Name”. Because you can Google George R Smith, voting right activist. Had it not been for Mr. Smith and the steadfastness, some of the elected officials in Brunswick County would not be sitting where they are today. Your 30 years of teaching, all the lives you’ve touched and the 20 years or more you spent on the ACLU State Board. “We Speak Your Name” and asked the IDA Board to stand in honor of you”.

The award says *“Appreciation Award presented to Mr. George Smith in appreciation for your outstanding service to Brunswick County, VA for servicing the community and citizens. Thank You for everything Brunswick County IDA”*

Dr. Ronald Thornhill, also had a few words, *“I am new to the Board, but I could not allow this moment to go on without saying a few words. I am replacing Mr. Smith and I wouldn’t be here in this county if not for his sacrifice, his service and his submission not only to the county, but to me personally. As a Principal, and Community Leader myself, he has been my mentor. I can’t say enough about him and his family in terms of what he has meant to me and this county. This County will not be, what it is and where it is, if it wasn’t for Mr. Smith and a few others that were bold enough and bodacious enough to come forward when it was not willing or comfortable to say what he has said and to do what he has done so publicly. I appreciate you for what you’ve done for this County, Community and for me personally, thank you”.*

Mr. George Smith thanked the Board and Citizens for awarding him with his family in attendance. He stated, *“I am thankful, I don’t know what to say, I don’t possess the brilliance or metaphor or the excellence to really express myself right now. So I’m simply want to say thank you and I really appreciate it from the bottom of my heart, I enjoyed working with you all and you all are a great group and I am going to miss you”.*

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Will Ford approve the agenda with the following change to add Closed Session, above adjournment to the Agenda.

Upon vote of those present motion was unanimously carried.

V. Citizens Comments

(Citizens are allotted three (3) minutes to speak)

Ms. Anne Williams, a member of Lawrenceville Town Council, stated she would like to challenge the IDA Board Members and the Executive Director to consider some items for 2023. She stated she was a meeting that discussed the role of EDA versus IDA. The function of the EDA is supposed to look at the economic health and development of the County and to look at things that help make a healthy community without social economic dependency and to look for a healthy environment so we’re not just low income housing and jobs. The IDA function is to bring substantial businesses into the community if anything it’s an industrial development authority, bring businesses into the county that will help the future economic development of the county. Ms. Williams also mentioned the citizens of this county may not have a voice but they’re watching and a lot of things that are happening are not in the best interest of the community. She mentioned a number of buildings have decayed and deteriorated and it is everyone’s responsibility to

push for development of buildings and write grants so the buildings don't deteriorate and an historic school didn't have to be torn down. Ms. Williams stated "She doesn't understand how anybody could allow public buildings to deteriorate in this fashion". In the meeting it was mentioned it's the EDA and IDA role to look into grants and sources of revenue to help these buildings.

Ms. Williams wanted to address the Historic Tax Credit and how the money that's spent to identify buildings to get historic tax credit. She mentioned how Reston, Virginia was a steeplechase round it had a lot of historic tax credit but Reston and other communities, seeking taxes have all developed without paying attention to all the historic tax credits. Ms. Williams says "Think outside the box, think about opportunities for bringing businesses into the county, whether it's having a film industry to help our communities or building a tech industry. She also mentioned the 5000 Mecklenburg sold to Microsoft, and feels the taxes can bring industries here.

VI. Approval of Minutes

- *Regularly Scheduled Meeting & Motions- November 1, 2022*
- *November 1st Motions*

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Quintin Kelly to approve the November 1, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting minutes and Motions.

Upon vote of those present motion was unanimously carried.

VII. Consent Agenda

- *November 2022 Bank Reconciliation*
- *November 2022 Check Register*
- *November 2022 Deposits*

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Will Ford to approve the Consent Agenda November 2022 Bank Reconciliation, Check Register and Deposits.

Upon vote of those present motion was unanimously carried.

VIII. New Business

A. James Solomon Russell Museum & Archive Donation

The Executive Director informed the Board of a letter received from JSRMA requesting a donation to assist with the James Solomon Russell Day event. **The IDA Chair recused herself from this portion of the Board Meeting due to being a member of the JSRMA Board. The Chair turned this portion of the meeting over to the Vice-Chair.** The Executive Director suggested a donation of \$500 in which Mr. Quintin Kelly suggested to increase the amount to \$1000.

Motion: Mr. Quintin Kelly moved, seconded by Mr. Ray Thomas that the IDA donate \$1000 to the James Solomon Russell Museum & Archives.

Upon vote of those present motion was unanimously carried.

IX. Old Business

A. IDA Consultant Updates

No IDA Consultant Updates. The Executive Director made the board aware that going forward the updates will be put in the packets for review.

B. Vote on By-Laws

The Executive Director reminded the Board that last month they received an updated copy of the By-Laws in their board packets. The By-Laws was updated to correct the completion on Audits. The By-Laws has been approved by the IDA Board's attorney, roll call was taking to vote on the corrections.

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, second Dr. Ronald Thornhill that the Board approve the By-Laws as presented in the November Board Meeting.

Upon vote of those present motion was unanimously carried.

C. Southern States Equipment

The Executive Director notified the Board, he is working to move the equipment out of the building. He's been in a conversation with the current tenant as to the timing of the move. The current tenant has expressed his interest in the equipment as well as other equipment in the building. If the equipment can't be sold, the IDA is looking to move it by February/March.

D. FOIA / Conflict of Interest training

The Executive Director wanted to thank everyone who completed the FOIA and Ethics Training as well as Ms. Lavern Dillard for keeping everyone in compliance.

X. Directors Report

Since the November Board Meeting, we continue to monitor and provide information for grant funding. We have applied for additional grant dollars. The Alberta Organic Packing Plant is in final underwriting. This project will bring opportunity to our farmers specifically and to the County in general.

The staff have been very busy in community events. LaVern and April along with Board Member Quentin Kelly served hot cocoa and cookies at the Lawrenceville parade. LaVern helped judge the decorated windows and attended the Ribbon cutting for Building Better Lives Community Services, LLC in my absence. Board member Ray Thomas and I cooked pancakes for the Rotary Santa Breakfast.

LaVern has continued her work to bring information, fellowship and guidance to new and existing business. Her passion for entrepreneurs expresses itself in all she does. She spends many hours, including personal time to make these programs possible. The monthly Rise N Shine Breakfast continues to have growing participation. This breakfast provides an opportunity for small business to grow their network, learn new skills and meet with experienced entrepreneurs on how to grow their business and the mistakes they've made along the way. We were glad to have Delegate Otto Wachsmann attend our last session. Lavern is working with Metropolitan Business League, VEDP and Alfreda Reynolds to provide in depth knowledge and tools required to start, grow and/or maintain a business and its provided free of charge. The project, funded with a VEDP Resurgence Grant to the IDA and County Economic development. The services provided included SWAM certification, Business Plan, resume building, Web Site and Social Media marketing assistance, Financial Projections and a whole host of other items.

The Holiday Season provides the tools for renewal. The holidays start with thanks for what we have, a celebration of family and spirit, a celebration of the past year and then a new start.

Thank you to the Brunswick County Industrial Development Authority's Board of Directors for your support, counsel and prayers. Economic Development in Brunswick County is a team contact sport. Change does not come easy but change is here and expanding. Thank you to the citizens of Brunswick County for your ideas, support and for letting us know your concerns. Many of you have learned that I am available to

answer questions and when possible update you on projects. I have benefitted greatly from these interactions.

You cannot miss this, the main streets in Alberta, Brodnax and Lawrenceville are becoming more vibrant and much more ready for business. All over the county, you see growth. The county is not where it would like to be, however, thanks to partnerships and a spirit of renewal we are getting closer, momentum is growing.

Two thousand and twenty two was a year of success, challenges, disappointments and growth as we continue to build the foundation for Economic Development. Businesses opened, grew and a few faced insurmountable challenges. While the IDA cannot guarantee the success of a business, we will continue to provide space. We will continue to seek out funding for construction, remediation, A&E, planning and job training. All over the county, you see growth.

The IDA has hired Commonwealth Preservation Group to hold Stakeholder input sessions to be used as part of our Strategic Plan. The sessions currently underway allows all areas of the County to provide input on the direction of the IDA. All levels of Government have been included. The most important, stakeholders our citizens, will also have an opportunity to share their thoughts, dreams and opinions. We need our citizens input in this process, this includes attending Monthly Board meetings held at 6:00 on the second Tuesday of each month, at the Brunswick County Conference Center.

The IDA Board of Directors believes that our projects support the Economic Development of Brunswick County. Regardless of which governmental division takes the lead. Our projects are Brunswick County projects.

Congratulations to Ms. Alfreda Reynolds on receiving the GOAT Award from Virginia Economic Development Association for her work on Hometown Hustle.

XI. IDA Board of Directors Comments

i. Project Committee

There was no comments from the Project Committee

ii. Chair

The Chair stated this is the last meeting of the year and asked if any director wanted to make a statement. The Executive Director welcomed Dr. Ronald Thornhill to the IDA Board. He stated "He has been a wise counselor and sets him straight very often. Thank you, welcome to the Board". Mr. Ray Thomas stated "he was glad the IDA was able to recognize Mr. Smith tonight. Mr. Thomas also recognized Beverly Ambs, the new Executive Director of Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce, we are glad to have Ms. Ambs. Her first Chamber meeting will be Dec 14th, everyone is welcome to attend as well as the business after hours being held at The Butterfly Rose Florist Gift Shop from 5pm to 7pm on Main Street.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank everyone for coming to the meetings and thanked Brunswick County Board of Supervisors, Dr. Alfonzo Seward and Ms. Alfreda Jarrett-Reynolds, Economic Development Authority for attending the meetings. She also thanked the IDA staff for the sacrifices that's made to attend the meeting and to be here to see that the business goes forward. The Chair thanked the Board members for their support and looks forward to moving in the right steps in 2023. The Chair also, thanked Tessie Bacon, IDA Attorney, and Congratulate Will Ford on the new addition to his family.

XII. Closed Session

MOTION TO CONVENE CLOSED MEETING

December 13, 2022

Mr. Ray Thomas moved, seconded by Dr. Ronald Thornhill that The Industrial Development Authority of Brunswick County Virginia Board Members convene in closed meeting to discuss the following:

As permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-311(a) (3), a matter involving the Disposition of publicly held real property.

As permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (a) (7), another matter requiring the provision of the legal advice by counsel on the Strategic Planning.

CERTIFICATION AFTER CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Ray Thomas that the Board certify that to the best of each Board member's knowledge:

- i. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open session requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed session to which this certification applies, and
- ii. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Chair, Sturgeon District

Mr. Morris Taylor, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District

Mr. Ray Thomas, Secretary / Treasurer, At-Large

Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., At-Large

Mr. Quintin Kelly, Powellton District

Mr. Will Ford, Meherrin District

Dr. Ronald Thornhill, Totaro District

Voting Aye: Ms. Gloria Menyweather-Woods, Chair, Sturgeon District

Mr. Morris Taylor, Vice-Chair, Red Oak District

Mr. Ray Thomas, Secretary / Treasurer, At-Large

Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr., At-Large

Mr. Quintin Kelly, Powellton District

Mr. Will Ford, Meherrin District

Dr. Ronald Thornhill, Totaro District

Voting Nay:

Absent During Vote:

Absent During Meeting:

Motion: Mr. Ray Thomas moved, second by Dr. Ronald Thornhill for Executive Director to research the property values of 121 and 127 Hicks Street.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion: Dr. Arthur Jarrett Jr. moved, seconded by Mr. Ray Thomas that the meeting be adjourned.

Upon vote of those present the motion was unanimously carried.

The December 13, 2022, Board of Directors meeting of the Industrial Development Authority of Brunswick County was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.