MERIWETHER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Official Minutes
November 13, 2017
4:00 p.m.
Conference Room
Meriwether County Administration Building

Members Present: Robert Moreland; Rosla Plant; Cheryl Moultrie

Members Absent: Allen Parham; Lee Taylor

Staff: Jane Fryer, Velinda Walton

Others: Commissioner Mary Bray; Commissioner Shirley Hines; Theron Gay; Maggie Laton; Doris Flournoy; Attorney Kevin Brown

Chairman Robert Moreland called the regularly scheduled monthly Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority Board of Director's meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Chairman Moreland welcomed everyone. Chairman Moreland led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Rosla Plant for approval of the November 13th, 2017, Agenda and seconded by Mrs. Cheryl Moultrie. Motion carried.

Comments from Visitors and Guests: Maggie Laton gave the following updates: Regional business, community and education leaders will be coming together to develop a Manufacturing Sector Partnership for the 10-county, Three Rivers region of West Georgia. The goal of the project is three fold; seed to understand our regions' manufacturing sector and our ability to supply it with a workforce both now and in the future; launch an interactive website to showcase many ways to live, learn and earn in the region; create a Manufacturing Sector Partnership to ensure continued engagement and collaboration among our manufacturing industry and educators. The LaGrange Troup County Chamber of Commerce is the leading business advocate in West Central Georgia.

Meriwether County point person is Mrs. Carolyn McKinley, Executive Director of the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

Commissioner Shirley Hines stated she had attended the ACCG Legislative Conference last week. Discussion of the 2018 Legislative Agenda topics was: Broadband; Sales Tax and Reform, Revitalization of 911 and Mental Health Issues in Jails. Commissioner Hines stated that she is in the process of arranging a meeting with Representative Bob Trammell and Representative Debbie Bucker with key leaders of the county and the West Georgia Broadband Authority. The tentative date is December 5th, 2017 with the time and place to be determined.

Approval of Minutes of October 9th, 2017 Meeting: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Plant for approval of the October 9th, 2017, meeting minutes and seconded by Mrs. Moultrie. Motion carried.

Financial Report/Jane Fryer: Ms. Fryer presented and explained the October 31st, 2017, financial report to the Board. A motion was made by Chairman Moreland for approval of the October 31st, 2017, financial report and seconded by Vice-Chairman Plant. Motion carried.

Budget History: Ms. Fryer presented and explained a chart representing the budget history of the Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority Budget from FY 2007-2008 through FY 2017 – 2018.

Old Business/Review of Comprehensive Plan: Ms. Fryer and the Board reviewed and discussed the Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority comprehensive plan that was moderated by Three Rivers Comprehensive Staff, Paul Jarrell and Kimberly Dutton at an IDA meeting that was held in December 2016. The long term goals for the Authority are as follows: Explore the option of an inland port in Manchester; continue to support and help with information on the East -West Corridor from Macon to LaGrange; and seek to convert the mobile home park located on Highway 54 into industrial property. The short term community work program goals are as follows: Extend the Industrial Park road paving past the bridge; connect existing parcels adjacent to existing county industrial park; convert existing ball fields into industrial use; move ball fields to Sewell road or other suitable location; build a spec building for prospective tenants and negotiate agreement with Mack Reynolds regarding future industrial property. Mr. Theron Gay discussed his views on the comprehensive plan stating that they would like a person from the Meriwether County IDA to serve on the steering committee for the Meriwether County Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Moultrie made a motion of recommendation and approval for Vice-Chair Plant to be designated as the representative for the Meriwether County Industrial Authority to serve on the Meriwether County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Chairman Moreland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The group also discussed the building of a Spec Building and the generic way that one is built. Ms. Laton stated that 70% to 80% of perspective new companies want a Spec

Building or either a building that can be constructed within a year. The subject of Coweta County having new spec buildings built was discussed. Mr. Gay explained that these buildings were being constructed in privately owned industrial parks with private investments without county funds.

New Business/Project Candlelight: Ms. Fryer stated Meriwether County has been placed on the short list. The consultants began looking at 42 cities and presently have cut it down to 15. Ms. Fryer stated that this is a good paying company that is looking at 10 acres of the 56 located in Meriwether Park. Ms. Fryer stated that she has hired McCoy Grading to cut the trees and underbrush on the 10 acres and Georgia Power has a program that will pay half of the cost for the work.

Tour of Meriwether Park, December 4th, 2017: Ms. Fryer has scheduled a tour of the Meriwether Industrial Pak including the water and sewer lines for Monday, December 4th, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; everyone will meet at the Meriwether County Administration Building and depart by the county bus to the park. The Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority, Meriwether County Water and Sewerage Authority and the Meriwether County Commissioners and Staff are invited to participate in the tour. So far Ms. Fryer has confirmation from 4 members from the Water and Sewerage Authority, 2 members from the Meriwether County IDA, and one Commissioner.

Georgia Academy for Economic Development: Ms. Fryer stated that four of our IDA board members Vice Chair Plant, Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Allen Parham and Mr. Lee Taylor graduated from the Georgia Academy of Economic Development last week. Mrs. Moultrie stated that the most impact that she came away with learning about the vast amount of state resources throughout the region. She also stated meeting people from all over the region was very interesting and resourceful. Mrs. Moultrie stated in her opinion the state needs to do a better job in letting community people have more knowledge of resources that are available. Vice Chair Plant stated "well said".

Other Business/Area Labor Profile: Ms. Fryer presented and explained the current labor profile updates from the Georgia Department of Labor.

Meriwether County School Scores: Ms. Jane presented and discussed the Meriwether County CCRPI Trend Date 2012- 2017 that she received from the school board. There was significant improvement across the board in the elementary, middle school and high school students. This was good news to all.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 11th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., at the Meriwether County Administration Building, Greenville.

There being no further discussion at this time, a motion was made by Vice Chair Plant to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mrs. Moultrie. Motion carried.

Joint Development Authority of Meriwether County and the City of Hogansville meeting dates are enclosed in this month's meeting material.

Respectfully submitted by:

Velinda Walton, Secretary

Robert Moreland, Chairman