



**MERIWETHER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Official Minutes
December 10, 2018
4:00 p.m.
Conference Room
Meriwether County Administration Building**

Members Present: Robert Moreland; Rosla Plant; Allen Parham; Lee Taylor; Cheryl Moultrie

Staff: Jane Fryer, Velinda Walton

Others: Dr. Robert "Al" Griffin, Meriwether County School Superintendent; Vice – Chairman Mary Bray, MCBOC; Nneka Carter Young, Manchester Development Authority Executive Director, Kevin Brown, Attorney at Law, Seyfarth Shaw Firm.

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Rosla Plant for approval of the December 10th, 2018 Agenda. Mr. Allen Parham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – November 12th, 2018 Meeting: A motion was made by Mrs. Cheryl Moultrie for approval of the November 12th, 2018, meeting minutes and seconded by Vice-Chairman Rosla Plant. Motion carried.

Financial Report/Jane Fryer: Ms. Jane Fryer presented and explained the Financial Report as of November 30th, 2018. Mr. Lee Taylor made a motion of approval of the Financial Report as presented and Mr. Allen Parham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business/Manchester, Woodbury and Meriwether County Statistics detailed reports: Ms. Fryer presented statistical reports on the City of Manchester and Woodbury and Meriwether County discussing the population, median age, median household income, economic characteristics, and health insurance coverage, poverty levels and housing characteristics. Views and opinions on the reports were discussed among the Board.

Economic Development Report/Jane Fryer: Ms. Fryer informed the Board that she is working closely with four active projects (two textile companies; aluminum wheel manufacturer and a new one that she is meeting with on Friday). She also gave an update on the closing of the Georgia Pacific Corporation in Warm Springs stating she has been in contact with the communications director and they are trying to place the employees in other Georgia Pacific plants. They are building three new lumber plants in Albany, Georgia, Warrenton, Georgia and Talladega, Alabama. They stated they would keep the building for a while and try to find another operation to go in the facility. They are having a job fair at the plant and invited several companies from the region that are hiring to come in and talk to the employees. The IDA is referring them when we hear of a job opening. There will be a meeting to be held on Monday, December 17th, 2018, at twelve noon, in the Conference Room of the Meriwether County Administration Building concerning Georgia Pacific. Ms. Amy Carter with Georgia Economic Development ; Mrs. Corrine Thornton; Department of Community Affairs; Ms. Maggie Laton, Georgia Economic Development Regional Manager; representatives from Georgia Pacific; Meriwether County Commissioners and Development Authority members are invited for this important meeting.

Comments from Guests: Dr. Al Griffin gave an update on a program that will educate students in the manner that would blend with industries. He stated he has been working with Dr. Mark Peavy with the Georgia Department of Education concerning a College & Career Academy for Meriwether County. They will partner with the West Georgia Technical College. He stated the school system will apply for grants for the Career Academy which is a two-year process. Dr. Griffin stated that a Citizens Academy will be held beginning January 2019 going through May 10th, 2019. The purpose of the academy is to see what it takes to run a school system.

Other Business: Mr. Parham stated that he feels like the interior of Meriwether County is dying due to lack of industry and businesses. A lengthy discussion was held among the Board members concerning the need and growth of industry. The Board thoroughly discussed taking steps to purchase land in other parts of the county that is near the interstate.

Ms. Fryer informed the Board that she was just informed that someone is opening up the Mead Plant for operations processing metals that can be distributed for use. Vice-Chairman Mary Bray, Meriwether County Board of Commissioners stated that she is aware of the operations of the Mead Plant and she has spoken to Mr. Theron Gay, Meriwether County Administrator and everything concerning the plant is legal.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 14th, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Velinda Walton, Secretary


Robert Moreland, Chairman