

**CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

July 15, 2020

Present: Keith Ward, Bruce Butler, Chereese Stewart, Daniel Vallencourt, Tina Clary, and Tiffany Howard

Absent: Amy Pope-Wells and Tom Hackney

Staff: Josh Cockrell and April Scott (Legal Counsel)

Guests: JJ Harris, Joel Lamp, Wendell Chindra and Kelly Mosley

Call to Order: **Keith Ward** called the Clay County Development Authority ("CCDA") Public Meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Invocation: **Bruce Butler** provided the invocation.

Comments from the Public: None.

Clay EDC Report

JJ Harris discussed the Mobro Marine expansion and the water/sewer expansion. Project PASS and AMMCON updates were given. Both projects are still having issues with electrical capacity. **JJ Harris** discussed an increase in project inquiries. **JJ Harris** discussed a lack of inventory for project placement. EDC continues to work towards a site readiness program to help solve inventory issues. **JJ Harris** discussed this objective.

Clay Chamber of Commerce Report

Wendell Chindra discussed the incubator project they are leading which is an opportunity provided by the CARES Act funding received by the county. The purpose of the project is to support entrepreneurs and get their businesses launched with full circle service and support. The Chamber is going to raise \$100k in sponsorships and \$56K will come from usage fees. **Josh Cockrell** discussed a desire to see multiple agencies under one roof. **Josh Cockrell** discussed a desire to see the incubator located in Green Cove Springs. **Daniel Vallencourt** discussed a fundraising opportunity and the need for someone to begin the revitalization of GCS. The building closing needs to occur by Dec. 11. **Wendell Chindra** announced that the Teacher Appreciation Expo will be on August 3 this year.

CTE-Workforce Development Report

Kelly Mosley discussed vocational/trade education in Clay County through the Career and Technical Education programs. There are 120 CTE teachers across the district. **Kelly Mosley** gave an overview of the programs offered at each high school. The students are encouraged to earn industry certifications in addition to their high school diplomas. **Kelly Mosley** overviewed the opportunities for businesses to get involved. **Keith Ward** praised

the program and the opportunity afforded by participating in the Advisory Board. **Josh Cockrell** discussed the need for support of the ½ cent sales tax in support of our schools.

Project Nitro

Joel Lamp gave an overview of Project Nitro. **Joel Lamp** discussed the partnership between Clay County Tourism and Airstream Ventures to bring professional and organized sporting events into the county. Nitro Circus is looking for a location to host extreme motorsports rally car events. **Joel Lamp** discussed the other opportunities which the venue could also support. **Daniel Vallencourt** asked how much funding is needed to get the project started. **Joel Lamp** stated that they are looking to raise \$1M in partnership investment to develop the venue. **Daniel Vallencourt** discussed Reynolds Industrial Park and the opportunities there. **Joel Lamp** discussed the need for another RV Park in Clay County and the opportunity to combine both projects. **Joel Lamp** discussed the facility fee that will be charged for each ticket and the revenue opportunity. **Keith Ward** requested that **Joel Lamp** come back once a property has been selected. **Josh Cockrell** spoke in support of the project and exploring the opportunity further. **Bruce Butler** inquired about inviting Ted McGowan to present to CCDA about Reynolds Industrial Park. **Joel Lamp** stated that the project needs 30 to 40 acres for the motorsport's venue and 80 to 90 acres to include the RV Park component. **Josh Cockrell** requested that a special meeting be held in 2 weeks to further discuss the opportunity.

Secretary's Report

Approval of June 17 Minutes: **Chereese Stewart** presented the minutes. **Bruce Butler** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Daniel Vallencourt** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Josh Cockrell presented the June financials. There are no outstanding receivables. Grant revenues are moving slower than anticipated. Interest rates are low and there are no IRBs. **Bruce Butler** motioned approval of the financials. **Daniel Vallencourt** seconded. Unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Keith Ward welcomed the new members and thanked them for their engagement.

Daniel Vallencourt overviewed the Goals and Objectives Committee meeting. **Josh Cockrell** discussed the desire of the Committee to do more advocacy support work. **Josh Cockrell** discussed the desire to advocate for a business license in Clay County and to support consumption based taxes. **Daniel Vallencourt** overviewed the strategies discussed in the Goals and Objectives Committee meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Josh Cockrell overviewed grant activity. CCDA is awaiting award of all submitted grant applications. **Josh Cockrell** overviewed cash flow in relation to grant matching of the organization.

Josh Cockrell discussed set-up for the new members. CCDA e-mail accounts have been established for the new members.

Attorney's Report

April Scott stated her excitement of the new Board members.

Old Business/New Business/ Board Comments

There was no old or new business to discuss.

Adjourned: 6:07 PM