

Development Authority of Crawford County
Thursday, July 6, 2023
Board Meeting
6pm
Development Authority of Crawford County, Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Diane Griffin
Richard Murphy
Broadus Williams
Thomas Collins
Adriane Romeo
Darlene Roberts
Tisa Horton
Crystal Golden

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Andrews
Dennis Kelly
Dale Jump

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jackie McCowen
Robin Hamlin
Ryan Hamlin
Daniel Wilder

Call to Order:

Chairman Thomas Collins called the Development Authority of Crawford County meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation:

Given by Broadus Williams

Order of Business:

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Thomas Collins called for a motion to approve the agenda. Richard Murphy made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Broadus Williams and the vote was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Thomas Collins called for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 4, 2023, meeting. Richard Murphy made the motion, seconded by Broadus Williams, and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Thomas Collins called for a motion to approve Executive Session meeting minutes from April 6 and May 4, 2023. Richard Murphy made the motion, seconded by Diane Griffin, and the vote was unanimous.

Welcome:

Old Business:

Essentials of Economic Development Update

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, reported on the workshop events which included SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats); defining priorities and action items for the community: Marketing, Communication, Infrastructure, Employee Recruitment & Retention and Real Estate.

GMA Convention Update

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, reported on the events of the convention in Savannah from June 22 to June 27, 2023. Tisa spoke about the networking, classes, tours, and the knowledge she gained from attending the convention.

Joint Development Retreat Update

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, asked if the board members were available on the date of July 19th. After discussion of availability the new date proposed is July 26, 2023, from 8 to 12 AM. Tisa Horton will see if the new date is good for the presenter.

Revolving Loan Fund Update

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, updates the board regarding completion of the Revolving Loan Fund for Dickey Farms. Tisa provided pictures of the ribbon cutting from Dickey Farms for the check presentation. Board members who attended were Diane Griffin, Thomas Collins, Darlene Williams-Roberts, and Leland Mangrum – Fort Valley Downtown Development Board of Director, Fort Valley Utility Commission Chairman Alre' Horton in support of regional businesses progress and success. Tisa Horton, Executive Director, went over the purpose of the RLF and stated there is \$30,000 left in the revolving loan fund account.

Georgia Community Bank

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, informed the board that Tisa Horton and Richard Murphy are the only signed of the account. She asked the board to decide who they would like to add signed/signees on the account. Thomas Collins as for a motion. Broadus Williams made a motion to add all board members: Diane Griffin; Richard Murphy; Broadus Williams; Thomas Collins; Adriene Romeo; Darlene Roberts; Dennis Kelly; and Tisa Horton, Executive Director. Seconded by Richard Murphy, and the vote was unanimous.

New Business:

CCDA Industrial Park

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, informed the board that 1-800 Packout purchased the warehouse located in the Industrial Park area for expansion from the commercial realtor Art Barry. This is not a CCDA property/warehouse.

256 Wright Avenue Parking Lot

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, informed the board that the parking stoppers have come in for 256 Wright Ave parking lot from Uline. Ricky Graddick, city maintenance, will install the bumpers for CCDA.

GICH Program

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, announced that CCDA will apply again for the GICH Program. Crawford County applied for the program for the first-time last year and was pleased to be one of the seven finalists selected. Although we did not advance to the next round and become one of the five communities accepted into the 2022 GICH Program.

Business Center

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, presented the proposed letter and application of Make It Clear Ministries. The proposal is to lease thirteen rooms for \$2500 with a year of rent abatement and no deposit fee. The 13 Rooms are Roll Up Door and the adjacent classroom, Wing A (10 & 11), Wing B (20B, 20A, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14), and the library. Tisa Horton, Executive Director, stated that the group is a non-profit religious based film group.

ECG Economic Development Summit

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, announced the ECG summit dates are September 27th and 29th, 2023 in Jekyll Island. Tisa Horton would like to attend the summit and suggested that board members should also attend the summit. Thomas Collins called for a motion. Darlene William Roberts made a motion for Tisa Horton, Executive Director to attend ECG summit and one of the board members should attend. Seconded by Broadus Williams, and the vote was unanimous.

DCA Conference

Tisa Horton, Executive Director, announced the Department Community Affairs conference date is October 23rd to 25th, 2023, in Augusta, GA. The conference is housing focused and a member from the GICH Community Housing Team should attend the conference.

Adriene Romeo left early before Financials and was absent for the Executive Session.

Financials

Executive Session:

Chairman Thomas Collins called for a motion to exit open session and enter Executive Session for real estate. Broadus Williams made a motion to exit the regular session to enter executive session allowing County Commissioner Jackie McCown and CCDA attorney Daniel Wilder, to stay and participate in the executive session. Second by Richard Miller and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Thomas Collins called for a motion to return open session. Broadus Williams made the motion for the board to return to open session. Seconded by Richard Murphy and the vote was unanimous.

Thomas Collins, Chairman, called for a motion on Make It Clear Ministries leasing proposal. Darlene Williams Robert made a motion to approve Tisa Horton, Executive Director to counteroffer a lease for Make It Clear Ministries a 3-year term, no deposit, first three months' rent abatement, and

\$1200 for lease of thirteen rooms. The 13 Rooms are Roll Up Door and the adjacent classroom, Wing A (10 & 11), Wing B (20B, 20A, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14), and the library. Seconded by Broadus Williams, Thomas Collins, Chairman voted nay and four vote yeas. Yeas votes carried the motion.

Announcements:

Congratulations to Darlene Williams Roberts, Adriane Romeo, Thomas Collins, and Crystal Golden on successfully completing the Development Authority Training.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Chairman Thomas Collins called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Broadus Williams made the motion, seconded by Richard Murphy, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.