****

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WWDA Board of Directors**

**February 12, 2025**

**9:00 A.M.**

**2855 Forest Drive**

**Waycross, Ga 31503**

**Board Members Present: Present via Telephone:**

James Willis Michael-Angelo James

Candice Moody-Rice

Dan Good **Guests Present:**

Rusty Hall Hillary Stringfellow

Daniel Morris

Stephen Burse

Brian Jackson

**Staff Present:**

Jason Rubenbauer

* **Call to Order**

Chairman James Willis called the February 12th, 2025, meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

* **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Stephen Burse provided the invocation and led the board into the pledge of allegiance.

* **Approval of Agenda**

Dan Good motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Rusty Hall seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Approval of Minutes**
* January 8, 2025

Candice Moody-Rice motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8th meeting as presented. Dan Good seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Approval of Financial Reports**
	+ December 31, 2024
	+ January 31, 2025

Jason Rubenbauer presented the financial reports for both December of 2024, and January 2025. Mr. Rubenbauer noted that the WWDA exceeded its proposed budgeted revenues, and expenses ended below the amended budget expectancy, resulting in a positive year for the WWDA. Mr. Rubenbauer also noted a strong beginning of 2025, and mentioned possible discrepancies in expected revenue due to a calendar change in county funding appropriations. Rusty Hall motioned to approve the financial reports as presented. Dan Good seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Community Reports**
* Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce

Jason Rubenbauer mentioned the Chamber of Commerce’s search to fill the President position, and that the Chamber is in early stages of offering the position to a candidate.

* Downtown Waycross Development Authority
* Waycross Convention & Visitors Bureau
* Coastal Pines Technical College
* South Ga. State College

Taylor Hereford gave an update on SGSC, noting their search for an assistant director. He believes they will begin interviewing candidates soon. Mr. Hereford also announced that the Dye Foundation has approved to renovate their tennis courts to add functionality for pickleball, which Mr. Hereford says has been an often-requested feature at SGSC’s tennis courts.

* Ware County Board of Education
* **Old Business**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

* **New Business**
	+ Discussion and request for nominations and action of Board member positions:
		- Chairman
		- Vice Chairman
		- Secretary
		- Treasurer

Jason Rubenbauer began by reviewing the current Board Member positions and the current holders of those positions. Hillary Stringfellow reminded the board that Candice Moody-Rice’s term as a board member is ending this year and is ineligible to be nominated again due to the WWDA’s operative by-laws. Daniel Morris proposes the renomination of Dan Good as Treasurer and Dan Good accepts the renomination. Dan Good proposes Rusty Hall and Mr. Hall agrees to be renominated as Secretary following a second from Stephen Burse. Dan Good proposes Candice Moody-Rice to continue to fill the Vice-Chairman position and Stephen Burse seconds. Rusty Hall proposes James Willis to continue to fill the Chairman position, and Dan Good seconds. Mr. Willis agrees to retain his position as Chairman. Daniel Morris motions to accept the nominations, Brian Jackson seconds the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* + Presentation, discussion, and request for action for joint board retreat to include the city and county elected and appointed leadership to be provided by Hodge Consulting Services, LLC.

Jason Rubenbauer presented his plan for an Economic Development retreat with city and county leadership, as well as the Downtown Waycross Development Authority, Mr. Rubenbauer also provided a recommendation to hire Hodge Consulting Services to assist in the development for the plan for the retreat. The board decided to table the discussion to convene with the city and county governments to ensure availability and participation for such an event.

* + Presentation, discussion, and request for action on the 2025 Memorandum of Fees, Charges, and Procedure.

Jason Rubenbauer begins discussion on the 2025 Memorandum of Fees, Charges, and Procedures, in order to sustain consistency and protection for the WWDA. Mr. Rubenbauer suggested that the board authorize an avenue for collecting a usage fee on Authority owned rail in order to offset maintenance costs. Daniel Morris approved the addition of the procedure. Dan Good seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* + Presentation, discussion, and request for action to authorize the submission of the 2025 GTIB Grant Request

Jason Rubenbauer makes a request to authorize the submission of the GTIB Grant Request for projects related to the development of Gus Karle Parkway. Mr. Rubenbauer discusses the significance of such a grant, allowing the Authority to expedite development in that area. Michael-Angelo James motioned to authorize the grant request. Candice Moody-Rice seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Attorney’s Items**
* Hillary Stringfellow – Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin, P.C.

Hillary Stringfellow updates the board on the ballfield property, announcing that their office has discovered the current and wrongful owners of the property and that she has explained the complications and is expecting the ownership to be cleared up very soon. Hillary Stringfellow also announces that she is prepared to send the deeds for the GATX project to the City Attorney.

* **President’s Report – Jason Rubenbauer**

Jason Rubenbauer provided a progress report for Chase McDonald, who was absent due to participation in Leadership Waycross. Mr. Rubenbauer highlighted the success of the WWDA’s social media pages, website visitation, and LinkedIn engagement per the presentation. Mr. Rubenbauer detailed the respective content plans for the website and social media platforms.

* **Chairman’s Report – James Willis**

There was no report by Chairman James Willis.

* **Executive Session**
* For discussion of land/lease and acquisition matters pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b)(1)(B)

Michael-Angelo James motioned to enter executive session. Daniel Morris seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the board entered into executive session at 10:05.

Following a motion from Rusty Hall and a second from Dan Good, the board entered back into regular session at 10:35.

* **Adjournment**

With no more items on the agenda, Rusty Hall motioned to adjourn. Dan Good seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the February 12th, 2025 meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.