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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WWDA Board of Directors**

**March 5, 2025**

**9:00 A.M.**

**2855 Forest Drive**

**Waycross, Ga 31503**

**Board Members Present: Board Members Absent:**

**James Willis Brian Jackson**

**Candice Moody-Rice Daniel Morris**

**Dan Good**

**Stephen Burse**

**Rusty Hall**

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

**Michael-Angelo James Hilary Stringfellow**

**Staff Present:**

**Jason Rubenbauer**

**Chase McDonald**

* **Call to Order**

James Willis called the March 5th meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

* **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Rusty Hall provided the invocation and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

* **Approval of Agenda**

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

* **Approval of Minutes**
* February 12, 2025

Michael-Angelo James motioned to approve the February 12th meeting minutes. Candice Moody-Rice seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Approval of Financial Reports**

There were no financial reports available for this meeting as Jason Rubenbauer presented both December and January’s in last month’s meeting, and February’s report is not yet completed.

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

Jason Rubenbauer informs the board that the Chamber has narrowed its President search down to two candidates and expects to fill the position soon.

* Downtown Waycross Development Authority
* Waycross Convention & Visitors Bureau
* Coastal Pines Technical College

Pete Snell announces that CPTC has seen a slight increase in enrollment so far this quarter.

* South Ga. State College

Taylor Hereford updated the board on a new program that recently graduated its first class of 12 students. SGSC is also officially instating a Rodeo Club and is joining the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Mr. Hereford also reminds the board of the SGSC golf Tournament on April 18th with proceeds going to the construction of the planned tennis/pickleball courts.

* Ware County Board of Education

Candice Moody-Rice informs the board that Kim Callahan has officially filled the open CTAE Director position.

* **Old Business**

Jason Rubenbauer updated the board on conversations he has had regarding the Economic Development Retreat he is planning with City and County officials. Mr. Rubenbauer announced that he has secured commitments from officials at both municipalities. Mr. Rubenbauer encouraged the board to finalize and approve the plans for the retreat, including the cost associated with Hodge Consulting. After discussion regarding the City and County’s willingness to offset the cost for the retreat, and discussion regarding the quality of services provided by Hodge Consulting and the expected outcomes from the economic development retreat, the board came to a consensus to move forward with the plan.

* **New Business**
  + Presentation, discussion, and request for action on the Engagement Agreement between the WWDA and Mauldin & Jenkins CPA’s & Advisors for the preparation of the 2024 Audit.

Jason Rubenbauer informs the board that the three-year engagement agreement with Mauldin & Jenkins has expired and suggests that the board enters into a one-year agreement so that we can complete the 2024 audit in a timely manner. Mr. Rubenbauer suggests that the board authorizes the one-year extension, and that we bid for a new contract next year. Michael-Angelo James motioned to approve the extension. 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 informs the board that we have yet to hear back about the ballfield property, but she has identified another contact for the property and is working to finalize the deed. Ms. Stringfellow also informs the board that the Quit Claim Deed is awaiting City and County attorney signatures, with the request for action being on the County’s next work-session agenda.

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

There was no report made available by President Jason Rubenbauer.

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

There was no report made available 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. Dan Good seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the board entered executive session at 9:48 AM.

Rusty Hall motioned to enter back into regular session. Michael-Angelo James seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the meeting entered back into regular session at 10:31 AM.

* **Adjournment**

Rusty Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting. Michael-Angelo James seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 AM.