



MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 4, 2025

9:00 am

Alexander Building

Bynum Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Mike Newberry, Vice Chairman William Davis, Dee Grist, Secretary-Treasurer Steve Singletary, Dr. Shanice Richardson, Sam Hattaway and Eric Harris.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Susanne Reynolds, Bill Mills, Hank Jester, and Mayor Travis Wimbush

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Newberry. Prayer was led by Eric Harris.

The minutes for the July 7, 2025 meeting and current treasury/financial report was reviewed and approved on a motion by Vice Chairman William Davis and second by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: Work Based Learning Student - Reynolds discussed the work based learning student that will be working with her 2 hours each day, and the importance of paying quality help in the economic development office. A motion to offer a work based learning scholarship for this position each school year in the amount of \$7.25/hr., 2 days a week on school days worked was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Sam Hattaway. All voted in favor. Bill Mills will draft a resolution for the scholarship. Fundraising - Reynolds asked if fundraising could be an option to help raise funds to build out the industrial park for business recruitment/job creation. Bill Mills suggested co-sponsoring an event such as this with the Chamber. Mike Newberry suggested taking the fundraising aspect out of it and having an event on the Court Square for the community (movie night). A motion to explore the co-sponsoring route for an event was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor. Reynolds discussed the need for a Local Economic Development Plan to move Early County forward and keep local government,

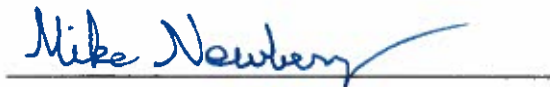
entities, and organizations on track with the mission of Economic Development. She discussed GRAD Site Certification for the industrial park and a grant with OneGeorgia that will assist the Authority in preparing the site for GRAD certification. This will make the park more attractive and on the state radar for industrial development projects wishing to locate in Georgia. A motion to move forward with planning for the GRAD certification and OneGeorgia Authority grant process was made by Sam Hattaway and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

OTHER UPDATES: There were no other updates given by the Chairman. Reynolds reported the needs for more GA FLEX sponsors to make the program available to at least 10 high school students in Early County. A discussion was had among the board members on the Southern Company surveying that is taking place throughout the county. Since the GP mill closure local restaurants have seen a decline in sales. Some are saying their sales are down anywhere from 15-50%.

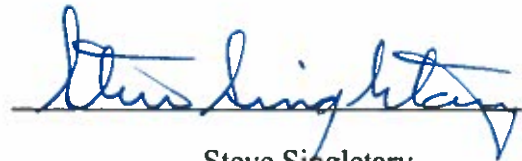
PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Susanne Reynolds, Director for the Development Authority of Early County.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mike Newberry", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Newberry or William Davis
Chairman or Vice-Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steve Singletary", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Singletary
Secretary-Treasurer