



MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 3, 2026

9:00 AM

Alexander Building - Board Room

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Mills, Hank Jester, Susanne Reynolds, Beth Chandler, Eddie Noland, Steve Jackson, and other community members

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Newberry and Eric Harris opened with prayer.

A motion to amend the agenda to add the Open Records Request Policy & Form under New Business was made by Steve Singletary. A second was made by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

Meeting minutes for special called meetings on July 13, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve was made by William Davis and seconded by Sam Hattaway. All voted in favor. Meeting minutes for a special called meeting on July 23, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve was made by William Davis and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor. The current financials were presented. A discussion was had regarding closing out the FLEX account and transferring funds to the Chamber of Commerce since it will now oversee the program. A motion to approve as presented with closing out the GCB FLEX account was made by William Davis and seconded by Sam Hattaway. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: A total of three applications for the 2026 Early County Growth Scholarship were submitted. All information was removed from the applications prior to the board's review. This is done to keep the applicants anonymous during the review process. Reynolds asked the board to rank the top 2 applications. The top applicant was Blair Bennett of Blakely. A motion to approve Blair Bennett as the 2026 Early Co. Growth Scholar was made by Sam Hattaway and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor. Reynolds will contact Blair and Samford University's Admissions Office to mail a scholarship check.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Newberry asked for a motion to approve the transportation costs for the recent visit to QTS-Fayetteville. The total amount was \$560.05 for the rental of the van and fuel. A motion to approve the travel costs were made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor. Reynolds presented the Open Records Request Policy and Form that can be posted on the Development Authority website. The policy officially names the Director of the Authority as the Official Custodian of Records. A motion to approve the policy and form was made by William Davis and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

OTHER UPDATES: Chairman Newberry asked the board members if they would like to comment on their experience when recently visiting QTS-Fayetteville Campus. William Davis said the experience was impressive and it showed lots of growth opportunities. There was no noise and that peanut dryers are louder. He said he saw lots of employees and that safety was first with required PPE for employees and

guests on site. The construction was massive. One building was about 5 acres. Sam Hattaway agreed with comments made by Davis. Dee Grist commented that there was a lot of opportunity for local and regional benefit. There were flagmen on the construction site, along with bus drivers and engineers. He said he had the opportunity to speak to some of the QTS engineers while on site. They were just normal guys from Fayetteville.

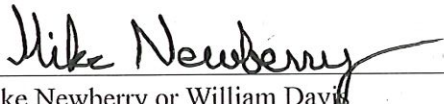
PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Mike Newberry asked for a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of economic development to discuss "Project Blue Hole." A motion to enter into executive session was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Sam Hattaway. All voted in favor. No action was taken during the executive session, so there was no action to report out.

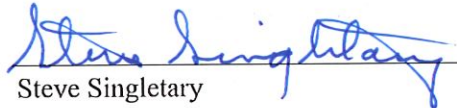
A motion to re-enter regular session was made by William Davis and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

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

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



Mike Newberry or William Davis
Chairman or Vice Chairman



Steve Singletary
Secretary-Treasurer