



MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 7, 2025

9:00 am

Alexander Building

Bynum Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Newberry, William Davis, Dee Grist, Steve Singletary, Dr. Shanice Richardson and Eric Harris.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Susanne Reynolds, Bill Mills, Dave Atkins, 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 June 2, 2025 meeting and current treasury/financial report was reviewed and approved on a motion by Dee Grist and second by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: Early Co. Growth Scholarship Recipient: Reynolds tallied the top 2 applicants that were submitted by each board member. Eric Harris was unable to submit his top two choices because the copy of the applications given to him blew out his truck window. Applicant Faith Elise Mills received the majority votes and was named the 2025 Early Co. Growth Scholarship recipient. Reynolds will call her to notify and schedule time for a photo with the board for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Bylaws Amendment - Signature Stamp Work Session - Reynolds explained the need to have officer signature stamps created for timely check and paperwork signing. Mike Newberry asked Hank Jester how the county handled stamped signatures. Jester explained an invoice is printed, along with the check and his initials each. Reynolds will notify 2 of the 3 authorized signatures when a stamp signature is utilized and they will approve. A motion to approve the bylaw amendment giving permission to have a stamp signature created for officers was made by William Davis and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

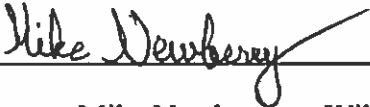
Local Economic Development Plan - Reynolds explained the need for a local economic development plan to move forward for the future of Early County. She presented a draft outline with the following key points: activating wasted spaces, workforce development, promotion, and collaboration/combining resources. There will be more opportunities for the board and other leadership to provide feedback before the plan is adopted by the development authority and presented to the board of commissioners for approval. No action was taken.

OTHER UPDATES: There were no other updates given by the Chairman, Director or Board members.

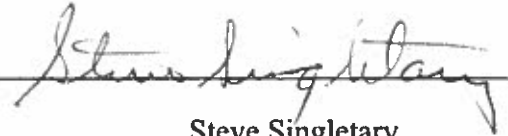
PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

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