



## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2026

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:** Buck Willis, Bill Mills, Susanne Reynolds and Hank Jester

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Newberry.

Meeting minutes for March 2, 2026, along with the current financials were presented. A motion to approve was made by William Davis and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Reynolds presented an updated official seal for the Development Authority. A motion to approve was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor. Reynolds presented the purchase price of an embosser for the seal. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dee Grist. QTS info session ads were placed in the Early County News. A motion to approve the payment for the ads was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dee Grist. All voted in favor. A tour to the QTS-Fayetteville location is being coordinated. Reynolds asked if the board would consider paying for the van rental and gas for city, county, school board, and development authority representation to tour the site. Newberry shared the experience of the QTS-Atlanta tour and how beneficial it was to visit the site. A motion to approve was made by Eric Harris and seconded by William Davis. All voted in favor.

**OTHER UPDATES:** Attorney Bill Mills updated the board on the RLF payment extension with Blakely Chicken, which paid the interest for 2026. The extension will push the balloon payment out. He also updated the group on the county data center ordinance progress. It is a work in progress and the purpose is to put something on the books, so the county has some say in the development. Setbacks need to be decided and the closed-loop system is not defined. It would be best for the commissioners to approve water plans. Newberry stated the need to address the water usage. He also commented that permitting fees would be substantial. Board member Eric Harris commented on the possible use of AI for the Growth Scholarship applications. Can the applications be screened for AI-use? Dr. Richardson said that AI is not always a negative tool to use for applications and essays as long as the entire response is not AI. It can be helpful for outlining essays. Reynolds and Richardson will work together to make sure the applications are reviewed appropriately for over-use of AI. Bill Mills suggested interviewing the applicants for verification.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Charlie Sol commented that after being a former D.J., it can be easy to pick out AI generated content vs. real. Buck Willis asked what happens if water in a closed-loop system needed to be drained in a data center? What are the procedures?



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.**

*Mike Newberry*

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Mike Newberry or William Davis  
Chairman or Vice-Chairman

*Steve Singletary*

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Steve Singletary  
Secretary-Treasurer