



## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 3, 2025

9:00 am

Alexander Building  
Bynum Conference Room

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Hank Jester, Susanne Reynolds, Bill Mills and Celia Bostwick

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Newberry. He also opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion to amend the agenda to add a sponsorship request for Peanut Proud 2025 was made by Steve Singletary and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor and the request was added to the agenda.

The minutes for the January 6, 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:** The Industrial Park Maintenance MOU was re-drafted by Bill Mills. The lease is a legal relationship which will be renewed each year. The contract can be terminated by the Development Authority if a parcel needs to be developed. The contract states the grass must be mowed and hay baled at least twice a year. Tenants must have insurance coverage. A motion to approve the MOU draft as presented by Mills was made by William Davis and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor. Reynolds will speak with prospective tenants and prepare for the grass to be mowed and hay baled as soon as possible.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Friends of Kolomoki requested assistance in replacing Kolomoki State Park signs (\$100 each and 10 are in Early Co.). Eric Harris asked if the state/DNR is responsible for the replacement and payment of park signs. The state does not cover the cost of replacements. GDOT will place the signs once purchased. Harris also asked that a promotional photo with the

signs be taken, so the public will realize the Development Authority provided this assistance to Kolomoki. A motion to contribute \$500 for half the signs to Friends of Kolomoki was made by Steve Singletary and seconded by Eric Harris. All voted in favor.

Mike Newberry thanked the Development Authority for its support of Peanut Proud in past years. A request to provide a sponsorship of \$2500 was made. A motion to approve the request as presented was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dr. Shanice Richardson. All voted in favor.

Reynolds presented the 2025 Growth Scholarship applications with a deadline set for Friday, May 16 and edited the application to reflect the following: "The recipient's check will be deposited directly to his or her post-secondary Institution **unless otherwise stated by the institution's policy.**" A motion to approve the release of the 2025 applications with edits was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Dr Shanice Richardson. All voted in favor.

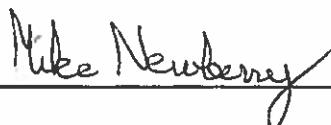
Reynolds explained she and Dr. Richardson have been working on preparing to release sponsorship information to Early County businesses for the Georgia FLEX program. Richardson explained that there are a lot of high school students at ECHS with their own businesses. We need to provide an avenue for young entrepreneurs to be successful now and in the future. A motion to move forward with the Georgia FLEX program was made by Eric Harris and seconded by Steve Singletary.

**OTHER UPDATES:** Reynolds noted the Hall Drug Co. building was having its windows replaced that morning and it is a RLF recipient in action.

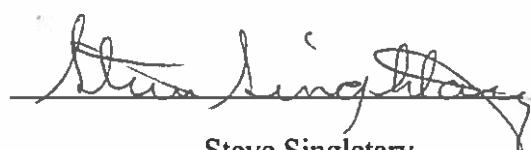
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

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