

**CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

June 17, 2020

Present: Keith Ward, Bruce Butler, Chereese Stewart, Alex Hill, Amy Pope-Wells and Daniel Vallencourt

Absent: Amy Pope-Wells

Staff: Josh Cockrell, Ashton Scott on behalf of April Scott

Guests: Laura Pavlus, JJ Harris, Mike Vallencourt Sr.

Call to Order: **Keith Ward** called the Clay County Development Authority ("CCDA") Public Meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Invocation: **Bruce Butler** provided the invocation.

Comments from the Public: None.

Clay EDC Report

JJ Harris discussed the First Coast Expressway Summit on June 25. **JJ Harris** discussed the Board Governance project EDC is completing to expand the Board. **JJ Harris** discussed the Incentive Policy Recommendations report prepared by Crowe. **JJ Harris** discussed ongoing projects and the implementation of the shovel ready sites program. **Daniel Vallencourt** asked for more information regarding Mobro Marine. **JJ Harris** discussed the budget and award allocations. **JJ Harris** discussed the Mobro Marine expansion in further detail.

Secretary's Report

Approval of May 20 Minutes: **Chereese Stewart** presented the minutes. **Bruce Butler** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Daniel Vallencourt** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Alex Hill presented the May 2020 financials to the Board. CCDA has approximately \$2M. **Josh Cockrell** asked about reimbursement for the \$50,000 spent on PPE. **Chereese Stewart** said that Troy Nagel would need to be consulted. **Alex Hill** stated that the bank called about the remote deposit scanner. **Josh Cockrell** stated that it can be returned. **Daniel Vallencourt** made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. **Amy Pope-Wells** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Gubernatorial Appointees-Josh Cockrell stated that a letter was sent on June 12 with no response. **Josh Cockrell** sent an e-mail to Stephanie Kopelousos and Senator Bradley requesting assistance.

Goals and Objectives Committee-Daniel Vallencourt discussed the first meeting of the Committee. **Alex Hill** explained that the organization needs to retain its funds to float the grant funds until reimbursement occurs. **Alex Hill** stated that the organization has approximately \$111,000 in annual expenses. **Chereese Stewart** asked if the allocation would affect bonding capacity? **Josh Cockrell** explained that it would not have an impact. **Amy Pope-Wells** requested buy-in from all interested groups. **Alex Hill** motioned that the Board approve the allocation of \$1 Million for the purpose of a site readiness project/plan, grant match, loan, or a partnership/arrangement with an entity. Keith Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Keith Ward presented **Alex Hill** with a plaque thanking her for her service to CCDA.

Executive Director's Report

Update on Grants - Josh Cockrell stated that he typically presents to the Task Force in May and the grants are currently delayed awaiting budget approval. The state budget is estimated for approval on Friday.

Josh Cockrell requested that the group fill out and submit their financial disclosure forms for the Supervisor of Elections.

Josh Cockrell thanked the group for their support of the Orange Park Plaza project. Josh Cockrell expressed his disappointment in the Clay County Chamber of Commerce for their lack of support of the project. Josh Cockrell praised JJ Harris and EDC for their support of the project. Daniel Vallencourt expressed interest in the CCDA Board advocating for projects. Amy Pope Wells expressed that changing the conversation in this community is difficult and requires having preliminary conversations to educate the decision makers.

Josh Cockrell brought up the issue of the need for the half cent sales tax to benefit the school district. **JJ Harris** discussed that school funding is a critical economic development issue. **Mike Vallencourt** and **Keith Ward** expressed the need for the sales tax to pass. Daniel Vallencourt discussed that property assessments are low and that raising them could be another revenue source. **JJ Harris** discussed the need for all economic agencies to unite on economic development issues. **Alex Hill** discussed the need she sees in the school district. **Keith Ward** discussed that the school Board is actually saving money by privatizing their police force. However, the public doesn't understand that fact. **Amy Pope-Wells** discussed engaging the youth to voice their support of the initiative. **JJ Harris** likes the idea of having a campaign where community groups unite to do a campaign in support of the ½ cent sales tax. **Josh Cockrell** stated that he would like to support the vocational programs with the messaging. **Keith Ward** stated that he runs the apprenticeship program through NEFBA and supports the vocational programs. **Josh**

Cockrell stated that he would invite Kelly Mosley to attend the next meeting to discuss CTE. **Keith Ward** expressed his agreement.

Josh Cockrell discussed the need to advocate for economic development on the legislative level as stated in the 5-Year Strategic Plan. The group discussed the need to advocate in greater capacities. **Amy Pope-Wells** discussed what actions are necessary to create the right conditions for change.

Attorney's Report

Ashton Scott stated that he had nothing new to add.

Old Business/New Business/ Board Comments

There was no old or new business to discuss.

Alex Hill thanked the group for the opportunity to serve.

Adjourned: 5:37 PM