October 6th, 2026 @ 9AM
Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) Board Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BILL DAWSON
DAREN PIETSCH
WALTER RAFOLSKI
GREER ANDERSON

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

RICHARD NIXON

OTHERS PRESENT

RYAN MOORE, STAFF
SHERRI PRUITT, STAFF
JOAN HEARN, STAFF
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL
ROB BURR, GCAC
SHAWNA WILLIAMS, GCAC
REGINA McDUFFIE, CITY MANAGER
JULIE MARTIN, DDA & SIGNATURE SQUARE PROPERTIES
DORIE BACON, GA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MATT CARBO, RECOVERY SOLUTIONS WORLDWIDE
DAMON WHITLOW, WINGS OF GRACE
PAUL CHRISTIAN, ROBERTS CIVIL ENGINEERING
PAM SHEIRLING, THE ISLANDER

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Dawson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Darren Pietsch gave an invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPT AGENDA

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson seconded by Daren Pietsch and passed unanimously to accept the agenda as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

WELCOME & RECOGNIZE GUESTS
Chairman Bill Dawson welcomed guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Chairman Bill Dawson invited public comments.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS
No items to discuss

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
A MOTION was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve September 1st, 2026, Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve September 22nd, 2026, Called Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

FINANCIALS
Approve August Financials
Joan Hearn reported that August had nothing significant to report other than the Share the Future grants awarded to date through the Share the Future program.
A **MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve August 2026 financials as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS
UPDATES
PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
Clerks Masters Education Management Development Certification
Ryan Moore reported on Sherri Pruitt's accomplishment, which covers the legal requirements and responsibilities of city and county clerks in Georgia. Sherri reported that she earned her Georgia Certified Clerk in 2021 and continued the five-year program to earn her Master certification.

NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION
Project Update
McKenzie Padgett reported that the Authority has 19 projects in the pipeline and conducted four site visits during the quarter.

GEDA Luncheon: The Site Selection Perspective

McKenzie Padgett reported that the upcoming GEDA luncheon in Atlanta will feature a fireside chat on site selection perspectives and current industry trends. More to come.

Annie Gregson Consultant Conference

McKenzie Padgett attended the Annie Gregson Conference in Texas, which provided valuable networking opportunities with women in economic development and site selection consultants. She also had the opportunity to host two consultants for dinner.

GEDA Annual Conference

Ryan Moore reported that he and Sherri Pruitt attended the GEDA Annual Conference on behalf of GIDA and SEGA and received valuable feedback on economic development activity across the state. Sherri noted that the event featured excellent speakers, including Aaron Murray, who spoke on teamwork and leadership. The event also provided great networking opportunities with attendees from across Georgia.

SEGA Project Manager Update

Ryan Moore reported that SEGA will host its annual Project Manager Update, with 30–40 participants expected to attend and our six-county region participating in the event. Additional details will be shared as the event approaches.

RSM

Ryan Moore reported that planning for the upcoming RSM event, scheduled for November 19–22, is well underway. Traditionally focused on business development and existing industry engagement on Sunday, this year's event will expand to include Saturday and Sunday to incorporate Kings Bay transitioning service members. This addition will provide local industries with an opportunity to connect with service members transitioning to civilian careers.
McKenzie Padgett reported that 20 participants, including four consultants, have committed to date. Event activities are still being finalized, and board members will receive invitations to participate once the details are confirmed.

EXISTING INDUSTRIES

Community Leader Roundtable

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Community Leader Roundtable event continues to be well-attended and informative, featuring 3–5-minute updates from community leaders. The event provides valuable information and keeps community leaders informed about developments across the community.

Industry Leader Roundtable and Survey

Sherri Pruitt reported that the first Industry Leader Roundtable will be a casual meet-and-greet, similar to the Community Leader Roundtable, featuring 3–5-minute introductions from each industry highlighting who they are, what they do, and how they contribute to the community. A "Save the Date" card will be distributed at the event for the Industry Appreciation Dinner. The meeting will also include a discussion of the Authority's Veterans Day campaign, which will recognize veterans working in local industries.

Savannah State of the Port

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Authority will attend the State of the Port event in Savannah to learn more about the Port's economic impact. This year, GIDA has invited representatives from local industries, including Logistics and WWL, along with board members and staff. The event provides a valuable opportunity to better understand the Port's regional economic impact and the role local industries play in supporting it.

Wings of Grace Ribbon Cutting

Sherri Pruitt reported that Wings of Grace will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 13th at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate the unveiling of its newly renovated hangar, with improvements partially funded through Share the Future grant funds. Damon Whitlow of Wings of Grace invited everyone to attend, view the renovations, and enjoy the food and festivities.

WORKFORCE

Teacher of the Year

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Authority partners with the Glynn County School System and Georgia Power to sponsor and present the Teacher of the Year program. This year's event will be held in October at the new College of Coastal Georgia Center for the Arts. Chairman Bill Dawson and his wife will attend on behalf of the Authority, and Sherri will participate in the presentation alongside representatives from the Glynn County School System and Georgia Power. Additional details will be shared as the event approaches.

Talent Discovery Showcase

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Talent Discovery Showcase was canceled due to rain and will provide an update once it has been rescheduled.

This Girl Can

McKenzie Padgett reported that This Girl Can is scheduled for October 22nd, 27th, and 29th at GICCA. The Authority supports the program including sponsoring dinner one of the nights and introduces the speaker who highlights skills and career opportunities in the trades.

MARKETING

Marketing Update

McKenzie Padgett reported on the Authority's August marketing efforts, noting that the top-performing social media post highlighted the workforce event where Ryan Moore spoke and the Authority generated 150,000 impressions for the month of August. For sponsor content, the Authority released its Year in Review.

Washington Fly-In

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Authority traveled to Washington, D.C., in support of Glynn County and had the opportunity to meet with staff from offices of Senator Warnock, Senator Ossoff, and Representative Buddy Carter. McKenzie noted the value of connecting with Glynn County commissioners and other community leaders to discuss current initiatives and issues affecting the community.

Georgia Trend

McKenzie Padgett reported that Ryan Moore has been nominated again for the Top 500 Leaders in the State of Georgia. Each year, the Authority partners with the Chamber on an advertisement recognizing the honor in the November issue. The publication should be available for distribution at the next Board meeting.

Business After Hours – Jekyll Island Westin

Sherri Pruitt attended the Chamber's Business After Hours at the Jekyll Island Westin on behalf of the Authority, along with WWL. She noted that it was a great event with excellent food and networking opportunities, providing another valuable opportunity to build relationships within the business community. Sherri also commended the Chamber for consistently doing a great job hosting these events.

ENTREPRENEUR

Lucas Center Micro Loan

Ryan Moore reported on the Lucas Center microloan program, which established a fund through Elevate Glynn. The first loan has been issued, and the funds will be reflected in the Authority's financials. Additional information, including details on the recipient, will be provided in the near future. Darren Pietsch expressed his appreciation for the work that has gone into the program to help local businesses continue to grow and better understand how they can achieve success.

GCAC

Glynco Manning Aviation, Inc to Southern Aircraft Maintenance, Inc. New Sublease and Hangar Relocation – GCIC

A **MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve the Glynco Manning Aviation, Inc to Southern Aircraft Maintenance, Inc New Sublease and Hangar Relocation as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

Fourth Quarter Financial Report

Shawna Williams gave an overview of the fourth quarter financial report.

Airport Commission Pending Appointment

Rob Burr reported that Commissioner Farley's first Commission term will expire December 31, 2026. He is eligible for reappointment to a second 5-year term. Advertisements ran in The Brunswick News September 1st through September 16th, 2026. Commissioner King will serve on the Nominating Committee.

Military Operations Area (MOA) Update

Rob Burr reported on the MOA update with more to come and Rob asked for everyone's support on this issue.

ARFF Station Construction Project Update - BGIA

Rob Burr reported on the progress of the ARFF station construction

Passenger Terminal Parking Lot Expansion - BGIA

Rob Burr reported on the parking lot expansion at BGI Airport.

Slylane Infrastructure Development Phase 2 - SSIA

Rob Burr reported on the Skylane Development Infrastructure – Phase 2 at St. Simons Island Airport, which will support additional private aircraft hangar development. More information will be provided as the project progresses.

Airfield Safety and EMAS Project Update – SSIA

Rob Burr gave an update on airfield safety and EMAS project at the SSI Airport.

Runway 16-34 Crack Seal, Sealcoat - SSIA

Rob Burr reported on the runway 16-34 crack seal, sealcoat at the SSI airport. The runway will be closed for 2-3 months while the work is being done.

Master Plan - BGIA

Rob Burr reported on the BGI Airport Master Plan, which will evaluate the airport's current facilities and infrastructure and forecast future needs over the next 20 years. Additional details will be provided as the planning progresses.

Rob Burr also reported on the Woody Woodside dedication at Brunswick Airport. The well-attended event was a wonderful tribute to Woody Woodside and his dedication and contributions to the community.

IMPORTANT DATES

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, at 9am at 209 Gloucester Street, Suite 211, Brunswick, GA 31520
- Savannah State of the Port – October 14th, 2026, at 11:30am

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

McKenzie Padgett will get the *Message of the Month* out to the board later today.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session - Real Estate OCGA Section §50-14-3(b)(1)(B)

Closed Session – Pending or Potential Litigation OCGA Section §50-14-2

Personnel OCGA Section §50-14-2 (b)(2)

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to enter into Closed Session to discuss Real Estate, Pending or Potential Litigation, Personnel. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded Walter Rafolski to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

Returned to Open Session

ADJOURN

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Daren Pietsch. The MOTION carried unanimously: 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

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Chairman Bill Dawson

Attest:

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Sherri Pruitt
Director of BR&E / Golden Isles Development Authority

Attachments may be viewed on our website or in the Minutes Book at the Golden Isles Development Authority office at 209 Gloucester St., Ste 211t, Brunswick, Ga 31520.