



**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 9AM**

**Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) Board Room**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

BILL DAWSON  
GREER ANDERSON  
DAREN PIETSCH  
WALTER RAFOLSKI  
RICHARD NIXON

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

RYAN MOORE, STAFF  
SHERRI PRUITT, STAFF  
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF  
JOAN HEARN, STAFF  
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL  
WAYNE NEAL, GLYNN COUNTY  
DAMON WHITLOW, CHRIST FLIGHT  
ROB BURR, GCAC  
TERRA WINSLETT, GCAC  
STEVE SCHOETTLE, SEA ISLAND FORGE  
MATTHEW CARBO, RECOVERY SOLUTIONS WORLDWIDE  
STEVE LAGATTE, SHELLBACK ACTION CORP  
HEATHER LAGATTE, SHELLBACK ACTION CORP  
BRIAN WEESE, GICCA  
JULIE MARTIN, SIGNATURE PROPERTIES GROUP  
PAUL CHRISTIAN, ROBERTS ENGINEERING  
JENNIFER FORDHAM, DCA  
PAM SHIERLING, ISLANDER NEWS  
GORDAN JACKSON, BRUNSWICK NEWS

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Damon Whitlow with Christ Flight gave an invocation and Chairman Bill Dawson led Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ACCEPT AGENDA**

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson, seconded by Walter Rafolski, and passed unanimously to accept agenda as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

### **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 Daren Pietsch and seconded by Richard Nixon to approve September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, Minutes as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

### **FINANCIALS**

#### ***Approve July Financials***

Joan Hearn reported that the August financials were in line with the budget and there were no significant items to note.

A MOTION was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve August financials as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Consideration of Share the Future Grant for Sea Island Forge - Innovating***

A MOTION was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve the Share the Future grant in an amount up to \$10,000, dollar-for-dollar, from GIDA as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

#### ***Consideration of Share the Future Grant for Shellback Action Corp - Innovating***

A MOTION was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve the Share the Future grant in an amount up to \$10,000, dollar-for-dollar, from GIDA as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

***Consideration of Aviation Future Land Development Opportunities***

Ryan Moore presented future aviation land development opportunities to the board and highlighted potential prospects for air cargo carriers among other developments.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Richard Nixon to approve future land development opportunities for aviation as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

***Consideration of Multi Use Room Policy***

Ryan Moore presented a Policy Statement for third party use of the Authority's space in the large board room . The Policy includes a stipulation that no political or fundraising meetings may be held in the space. Specific Use Agreements will be considered for use of the space by preferred entities.

A **MOTION** was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve the contract as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Ryan Moore presented the Use Agreement with the Lucas Center.

A **MOTION** was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve the Lucas Center agreement as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

***Consider Creation of GIDA Revolving Loan Fund***

Ryan Moore noted that Glynn County will no longer be funding the Revolving Loan Fund. He presented several options for the board to review and consider at the next meeting should they wish to continue the program with GIDA funding.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Update of Land Purchase***

Ryan Moore reported that the Authority has closed on a 260-acre site off Highway 82, featuring interstate frontage, , and port access within close proximity.

**UPDATES**

**PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

***New Business Attraction***

***FIFA World Cup Briefing Event***

Ryan Moore reported that he and Shawn Williams with Coastal Outreach Soccer attended the FIFA World Cup Briefing event hosted by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Over three billion people are expected to watch the event, and Glynn County's Boys & Girls Club is one of only fifteen clubs nationwide that will be included in the event. More to come.

***GEDA Annual Conference***

McKenzie Padgett reported that the GEDA Annual Conference was held in Savannah, Georgia this year. She and Ryan Moore attended along with statewide partners. It was a great event and was well attended.

***Site Selectors Guild Fall Forum***

McKenzie Padgett reported that she attended the Site Selectors Guild in Indiana with statewide partners. She had one-on-one meetings with consultants, many of whom were already familiar with the area, making it a significant event.

***Area Development Conference***

McKenzie Padgett reported that she will be attending the area development conference in Savannah with additional details to follow.

***RSM Update***

McKenzie Padgett reported that RSM event has 35 total with 28 statewide managers and 6 consultants registered for this year's event, with a waitlist already in place. Additional details to follow as the date approaches.

***Annie Gregson Conference***

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Annie Gregson Conference will be held in Chicago this month. The event offers extensive networking opportunities with women in economic development and is a great chance to meet with consultants. More details will be provided following the conference.

***JLL Savannah Outreach***

During the GEDA Annual Conference, McKenzie Padgett reported that she and Ryan Moore were able to host a lunch with JLL Savannah consultants. JLL consultants discussed the popularity of Glynn County as clients are requesting more information on the area. Ryan and McKenzie discussed opportunities and followed up with site and community assets.

***EXISTING INDUSTRIES***

***Industry Appreciation Event Update***

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Fourth Annual Industry Appreciation Event will be held on October 9th at Silver Bluff Brewery. The event was created to thank local industry partners for choosing Glynn County as their home and to recognize outstanding companies with awards. It has become a well-attended evening, bringing together industry representatives, board members, and community leaders. More to come.

***Master Class Complete and Records Management***

Sherri Pruitt reported that the four-year Master Management and Records Management program is complete, pending submission of a 20-page report for final certification.

***Georgia Automotive Manufacturing Association (GAMA) Event***

Sherri Pruitt reported that she will attend the GAMA event in early November. The event provides information on issues impacting Georgia's automotive industry, including tariffs and workforce development trends. Additional details will be shared following the event.

***Port Tour with Georgia Port Authority***

Sherri Pruitt reported that Forest Strickland with the Georgia Port Authority conducted a tour of the port for her, Hilari Robertson with GP Cellulose, and Dorie Bacon with Georgia Economic Development. The tour provided a valuable opportunity to see firsthand the growth and ongoing development of the port.

**WORKFORCE**

***Teacher of the Year***

Sherri Pruitt reported that each year the Authority partners with the Glynn County School System and Georgia Power to sponsor and present the Teacher of the Year awards at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. This year, the program will also recognize the Classified Employee of the Year, which includes administrative, maintenance, and cafeteria staff. More to come.

***This Girl Can Event at Golden Isles College and Career Academy (GICCA)***

McKenzie Padgett reported that, each year, the Authority supports GICCA's *This Girl Can* event. The Authority will attend one of the event days to speak. Brian Weese with GICCA noted that the event will take place from October 28–30 and will feature five pathways. Damon Whitlow with Wings of Grace Aviation will also be joining this year. More to come.

***Economic Development Partnership***

McKenzie Padgett reported on the Glynn County School System's receipt of the State of Georgia Economic Development Partnership award that recognizes local schools for their coordinated workforce development activities..

**MARKETING**

***Chamber DC Fly-In***

Ryan Moore reported that the Chamber DC Fly-In went well, with this year's key industry focus on aerospace. The group was able to meet with Georgia's elected officials to share their story. A total of 35 representatives from Glynn County attended the event.

### ***Georgia Trend***

McKenzie Padgett reported that *Georgia Trend* will be focusing on the state's Top 500 Leaders in an upcoming magazine article. Further details will be shared as they become available.

### ***Newsletter***

McKenzie Padgett reported that the GIDA newsletter was sent to consultants and received 150 opens. The newsletter highlights the Authority's activities and accomplishments over the past year.

### ***Innovations Isles Campaign***

McKenzie Padgett reported on the Innovations Isles Aerospace Park, a 650-acre property adjacent to Brunswick Golden Isles Airport, featuring an 8,000-foot runway. The park is GRAD-certified and now open for investment opportunities.

### ***Children's Business Fair***

Sherri Pruitt reported that weather has delayed the Children's Business Fair. The event will now be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> with more to come.

### ***Business After Hours***

Sherri Pruitt attended the Business After Hours event hosted by the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce. Heller Healthcare was featured and celebrated its 10-year anniversary in Glynn County. The event was well attended and provided an excellent networking opportunity.

### **GCAC**

#### **Informational Items**

Rob Burr reported on the Chamber of Commerce visit to DC and provided an update on the private hangar development opportunity. He also noted that a proposed military expansion may be a concern for the airport.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9am at 209 Gloucester Street, Suite 211, Brunswick, GA 31520

### **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 Richard Nixon to enter into Closed Session to discuss Real Estate, Pending or Potential Litigation, Personnel. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Richard Nixon to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

## Returned to Open Session

Ryan Moore reported that the Authority received a tax bill related to the breakbulk sale. Chapman noted that it may be possible to have interest and fees waived, which could save \$6,400, reducing the total to \$22,000. Further details will follow.

### **ADJOURN**

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Walter Rafolski. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

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*Chairman Bill Dawson*

*Attest:*

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*Sherri Pruitt*

*Director of BR&E / Golden Isles Development Authority*