



March 4th, 2025

Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) Board Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

CHRISTY JORDAN
BILL DAWSON
DAREN PIETSCH
GREER ANDERSON

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

RICHARD NIXON

OTHERS PRESENT

RYAN MOORE, STAFF
SHERRI PRUITT, STAFF
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF
JOAN HEARN, STAFF
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL
WAYNE NEAL, GLYNN COUNTY COMMISSIONER
WALTER RAFOLSKI, GLYNN COUNTY COMMISSIONER
REGINA McDUFFIE, CITY MANAGER
MATHEW HILL, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ROB BURR, GCAC
TERRA WINSLETT, GCAC
SHAWNA WILLIAMS, GCAC
PAUL CHRISTIAN, ROBERTS ENGINEERING
PAM SHIERLING, ISLANDER NEWS
GORDAN JACKSON, BRUNSWICK NEWS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christy Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Bill Dawson 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 Christy Jordan welcomed guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Christy Jordan invited public comments.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

No items to discuss

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Contract for Grant Administration

Ryan Moore has reviewed the contract for professional services by the Coastal Regional Services for the \$2 million grant awarded to GIDA and recommends approval at a cost of \$8,000, as presented.

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Dawson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve the contract with Coastal Regional Commission for grant administrator professional services as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Bill Dawson to authorize staff to open an account for disbursement of funds for the grant as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Dawson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve February 4th, 2025, Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

FINANCIALS

Approve January Financials

Joan Hearn presented the January financials, which followed the standard monthly format, with the addition of the annual Foreign Trade Zone billing being processed.

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

UPDATES

PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Capital Update

Ryan Moore reviewed the following capital updates:

- Jered/PAR System Expansion
- WWL Expansion
- McBride Industrial Park flexible warehousing space
- Buc-ees' to open in August 2025 with 40M investment
- JB2 on west side of I95 with announcement to come soon
- Hillpointe/Pro Direct
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Wayne Neal, Chairman of the Glynn County Commission, requested that Chairman Christy Jordan have GIDA provide a summary of the capital update information presented, along with this year's accomplishments, to the County.

EXISTING INDUSTRIES

Shot Show

Sherri Pruitt attended the annual SHOT Show, the leading global trade event for the firearm and manufacturing industries, featuring 14 miles of exhibitors. Sherri observed that several local industries participate in this private event and sponsor GIDA's involvement. For next year, these industries have invited GIDA to join their booths with our literature, presenting a strong return on investment for the Authority. Sherri noted these industries serve as our most effective advocates, promoting the community.

Georgia Automotive Manufacturing Association (GAMA)

Sherri Pruitt attended the GAMA event, which provides valuable insights into issues affecting the automotive industry and offers direction for workforce development in Georgia and the Southeast. Sherri noted it was an informative event and an excellent networking opportunity.

Clerk Conference

Sherri Pruitt provided a report on the Clerk Conference held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. The conference aimed to align with the professional standards and objectives of our local city and county. The event was attended by local representatives from the City, County, and Airport, as well as several hundred other communities from across Georgia.

State of the Port

Ryan Moore reported that he and Sherri Pruitt had the opportunity to attend the State of the Port event in Savannah, which hosted approximately 2,000 guests. He noted that both the

Savannah and Brunswick ports are among the fastest growing in the nation and are expected to continue their growth.

Sherri Pruitt has organized a tour of the Brunswick port, led by the Georgia Port Authority, for this week, with details to follow.

WORKFORCE

This Girl Can (TGC)

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Authority attended the TGC event last week. TGC, launched by GICCA, brings girls together for training in various career pathways, including automotive, welding, carpentry, engineering, fire services, and EMS. This year, 25 girls participated, and GIDA sponsored the first evening, which included dinner and an opportunity to speak about the "Keep Glynn Running" initiative and the opportunities available in Glynn County.

Talent Opportunity Showcase

McKenzie Padgett reminded everyone that the Talent Opportunity Showcase is scheduled for this Friday, March 7th, during the First Friday Authority event from 5-7 PM. GICCA will be showcasing their heavy machinery, CPTC will feature their mobile welding lab, WWL will display their heavy machinery, and Damon Whitlow from Christ Flight will present their aviation simulator.

Ryan Moore reported that Damon Whitlow with Christ Flight is a religious organization, but at its core, their primary mission is to inspire young people about aviation careers, from pilots to aircraft maintenance technicians, and to help them build a successful future. Their first class of graduates, which includes 13-14 aircraft maintenance technicians, will graduate on March 14th. GIDA hopes to make an exciting announcement during the graduation ceremony.

Aviation Career Day (ACD)

Sherri Pruitt reported that ACD is an annual event hosted by GCAC for youth interested in pursuing a career in aviation. The Authority will be volunteering at the event and will represent KGR with a booth, providing step-by-step information on how to build a career path in aviation.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Update

Ryan Moore reported that, in addition to the previously discussed capital update, Thomas and Hutton is proceeding with the breakbulk engineering contract. Surveying is currently underway, with approximately 10% of the work completed.

MARKETING

Marketing Update

McKenzie Padgett shared the social media updates for January. The YTD social media is on track in meeting the annual goals. Workforce development is also on track as well as community engagement. GIDA had 92 new followers for the month of January with a 46% increase doubling the average monthly increase.

VIA Connects

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Authority hosted the VIA Resilience & Growth class, led by Evie Staples. The following week, the Authority welcomed the VIA speakers in preparation for the upcoming Women's Conference on March 22nd at CCGA, where GIDA is a sponsor. Information about the event is available at the front for anyone interested.

Presentation to Leadership Southeast Georgia

Ryan Moore reported that Chairman Christy Jordan, Chris Jordan, and Necie Carroll from the county acted as the program coordinators for the event. Chairman Christy highlighted that over 30 leaders from coastal Georgia, including McKenzie Padgett, participated in the event. The group had the opportunity to showcase Glynn and Camden counties, with visits to locations such as the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), downtown Brunswick, Saint Simons Island, and Camden County. During the event, Ryan delivered a speech on the topic of economic development in the region.

State Capital Visit

Ryan Moore reported on the recent state capital visit, where county, city, and chamber representatives met with legislators. Regina McDuffie, City Manager, noted that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was very receptive to all the projects in the area, as well as the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS). Wayne Neal, Chairman of the Glynn County Commission, emphasized that it is always valuable to shake hands with state legislators and meet in person, calling it a worthwhile trip. Walter Rafolski, County Commissioner, also stated that these trips are worthwhile and suggested considering visits more than once annually.

Rotary Speaker

McKenzie Padgett reported that GIDA will be speaking at the Saint Simons Island Rotary next week with more to come.

Business Feature

McKenzie Padgett reported that IAP was the featured business of the month which spoke about their global connections and the significant economic impact they have on our community.

Commercial Incentive

McKenzie Padgett reported on the addition of the Commercial Incentive section to the website, highlighting where to find it. The information provided is designed to help individuals understand who may qualify for the incentives and the associated eligibility requirements.

GCAC

Airport Commission Audit Report FY 23-24

Shawna Williams presented the GCAC audit for FY 23-24 to the board, highlighting a clean report and recommending approval.

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Dawson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve Audit for FY 23-24 as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

Informational Items

- Rob Burr reported that earned revenue has increased while expenses have decreased, giving positive financial news all around.
- Rob Burr reported the Capital Trip was successful with 15 million in budget as a result.
- Terra Winslett announced the Golden Isles Air Show is May 17-18, 2025.
- Terra Winslett reported that the annual Aviation Career Day will take place this weekend from 9-2pm with over 250 students registered to attend.

IMPORTANT DATES

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 1st, 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 Bill Dawson and seconded by Greer Anderson 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 by Bill Dawson to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

Returned to Open Session

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to authorize Ryan Moore to negotiate Buc-ee's under terms as discussed, subject to legal review. The MOTION carried unanimously: 4:0.

A MOTION was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve the contract for professional services between GIDA and the Coastal Regional Commission as presented, subject to legal review. The MOTION carried unanimously: 4:0.

ADJOURN

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Bill Dawson and seconded by Greer Anderson. The MOTION carried unanimously: 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

Chairman Christy Jordan

Attest:

Sherri Pruitt

Director of BR&E / Golden Isles Development Authority