



May 6th, 2025 @ 9AM

Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) Board Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

CHRISTY JORDAN
BILL DAWSON
DAREN PIETSCH
GREER ANDERSON
RICHARD NIXON

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

RYAN MOORE, STAFF
SHERRI PRUITT, STAFF
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF
WAYNE NEAL, GLYNN COUNTY COMMISSIONER
MATHEW HILL, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
RALPH STAFFINS, BRUNSWICK-GOLDEN ISLES CHAMBER
CAMERON SHIPMAN, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ROB BURR, GCAC
PAUL CHRISTIAN, ROBERTS ENGINEERING

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Bill Dawson gave an invocation and Chairman Christy Jordan led Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPT AGENDA

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

WELCOME & RECOGNIZE GUESTS

Chairman Christy Jordan welcomed guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Christy Jordan invited public comments.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

No items to discuss

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Dawson and seconded by Richard Nixon to approve April 1st, 2025, Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

FINANCIALS

Consider Proposal for Auditing Services

Ryan Moore reported the need to select a new auditor and outlined the interview process, identifying Maulden and Jenkins as the finalist. Ryan noted that Maulden and Jenkins currently serve as auditors for the City, and a proposal has been submitted to the auditing committee. The proposed fees are consistent with those charged by previous auditors. Ryan recommended authorizing the appointment of Maulden and Jenkins as the new auditors, effective FY 2025.

A **MOTION** was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Richard Nixon to approve Maulden and Jenkins as auditors, effective FY 2025 as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Approve March Financials

Ryan Moore tabled the March financials for June meeting.

UPDATES

PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Project Update

McKenzie Padgett reported that five new RFI's have come in over the past month following a brief slowdown. The Authority is now working with its first IT sector prospect and recently hosted a site visit at Tradewinds, with additional visits expected. Advanced manufacturing remains the leading sector among projects.

Google Economic Development Open House

McKenzie Padgett reported on an invitation received for a multi-state meeting, with participation from representatives of 4–5 states. The session provided valuable insights into the

data center industry, highlighting the roles of data centers, contractors, and power providers. Key points included projections indicating a 20-fold increase in power demand driven by data center expansion. All power providers agreed that data centers will significantly amplify future energy needs. The Georgia coast was identified as one of the most promising locations for data center development. Additionally, water cooling emerged as a major factor in meeting data center requirements, and a new wastewater treatment facility is under construction to support these cooling needs.

Georgia International Trade Conference

Ryan Moore reported on the Georgia Ports Authority's annual event, originally established by Bill Dawson 50 years ago, which continues to be limited to 400 invitees. GIDA and GPA co-hosted a dinner during the event, with approximately 30 attendees. Key discussions centered around the shipping industry, including panel sessions on tariffs and comparisons to the economic impact of COVID-19—this time without government financial support. The event also featured a segment on the Savannah Bananas, highlighting their unique growth and success story.

GEDA Luncheon

McKenzie Padgett reported on the GEDA luncheon with guests including Kim Green with Ga Power Company and the significance of integrated energy systems with power loads at the highest they've ever been with 90-100 megawatts. The Authority hosted a dinner with eight statewide partners.

Select USA

McKenzie Padgett reported on an upcoming summit to be held in Washington, D.C., focused on attracting foreign investment and fostering connections in economic development. More to come.

GEDA Spring Workshop

Ryan Moore reported that the GEDA Spring Workshop is scheduled to take place in two weeks in Braselton, Georgia, with additional details to follow. He also noted that several partners will be participating in a boat outing.

EXISTING INDUSTRIES

Share the Future Updates

Sherri Pruitt provided an update on all approved *Share the Future* grants for the 2024–2025 cycle. Her report outlined which projects have been completed, which are currently in progress, and which are scheduled for completion in the coming months.

Prosperity Through Trade at WTC Sav

Sherri Pruitt reported that WTC Savannah hosts the annual *Prosperity Through Trade – International Business of the Year* awards. This year, the Authority nominated Wallenius Wilhelmsen to represent Glynn County, recognized for its outstanding global growth. The event is scheduled for May 15th at WTC Savannah, with over 500 attendees expected.

WORKFORCE

Hosted Georgia Department of Labor Barbara Rivera Holmes

Ryan Moore reported that the Authority recently hosted Barbara Rivera Holmes, the new Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Labor, at its facility. During her visit, Commissioner Holmes met with the Glynn County Workforce Group to discuss workforce development programming and the specific needs of the local community.

Coastal Pines Sporting Clay Classic Event

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Authority once again sponsored the annual Coastal Pines Sporting Clay event, held on April 26th at Dorchester. The event was well-attended and a great success, with all proceeds going toward student scholarships.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Update

Ryan Moore reported on exit 42 progress and the entrance currently in progress which continues to be developed. The JB2 slab has been poured, and the grand opening of the Buc-ee's location is targeted to open soon.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Lucas Student Pitch Event

Sherri Pruitt shared her experience serving as a judge at last week's Lucas Student Pitch Event, which functions as Glynn County's version of 'Shark Tank.' The event showcased several promising young entrepreneurs from the community. Notable runner-ups included Joe Beans Cat Café and Morning Glory LGBTQ Tattoos. The Olde Estate, a concept aimed at simplifying special events, took second place, while the top prize was awarded to Savor Safe, an innovative allergy-free restaurant concept.

MARKETING

Marketing Update

McKenzie Padgett shared social media updates, noting that year-to-date performance is on track to meet or exceed the annual goals.

Share the Future (STF) The Brick Video

Sherri Pruitt presented a video about The Brick, one of the STF recipients, highlighting the impressive progress they've achieved in a short time and the opportunity it provides for young people to grow, develop discipline, and embrace core values.

GCAC

Coastal Georgia Honor Flight – May 3rd– Brunswick Golden Isles Airport

Rob Burr provided an update on the 8th Annual Honor Flight organized by GCAC. Each year, veterans travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial and return to Brunswick Airport, where they are sent off and welcomed back by Glynn County.

Golden Isles Air Show Take-Off Party – May 16, 2025, 7-9 PM, Mary Ross Park

Rob Burr announced that the Golden Isles Air Show will kick off with a public 'Take-Off Party' in downtown at Mary Ross Park and encouraged everyone who is able to attend and take part in the festivities.

Golden Isles Air Show – May 17th and 18th– Brunswick Golden Isles Airport

Rob Burr reported that the Golden Isles Air Show is quickly approaching, with strong turnout expected.

Draft EA Airport Improvements Workshop – SSI Airport – May 20, 2025, 5-7 PM

Rob Burr reported on the draft of the airport improvement workshop with more to come.

Plan and Development Test -SSI Airport

Rob Burr reported on the plan and development test at the Saint Simons Island Airport with more to come.

Legislator Tour – SSI Airport

Rob Burr reported on the legislator tour held at the Saint Simons Island Airport.

IMPORTANT DATES

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 3rd, 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 Daren Pietsch 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 Daren Pietsch to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Returned to Open Session

A MOTION was made by Bill Dawson and seconded by Greer Anderson to authorize the Authority to continue the East Gate partnership as 50/50 partners with the Authority in the project as presented, subject legal review. The MOTION passed unanimously: 5-0.

A MOTION was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Richard Nixon to approve the Jon Jenrette Phase II with a five year property tax abatement and capital investment of five million as presented, subject to legal review. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5:0.

ADJOURN

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Richard Nixon. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

Chairman Christy Jordan

Attest:

Sherri Pruitt

Director of BR&E / Golden Isles Development Authority