August 4th, 2026 @ 9AM
Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) Board Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BILL DAWSON
DAREN PIETSCH
WALTER RAFOLSKI
GREER ANDERSON
RICHARD NIXON

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

RYAN MOORE, STAFF
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF
JOAN HEARN, STAFF
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL
ROB BURR, GCAC
SHAWNA WILLIAMS, GCAC
BRIAN WEESE, GICCA
ZACK SILER, BRUNSWICK MERCANTILE
JOHN DANIEL, h20 CREATIVE GROUP
ANNE GOODSTEIN, h20 CREATIVE GROUP
JEFF BETTS, h20 CREATIVE GROUP
CHRISTOPHER BREWER, BREWER TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, INC.
WAYNE NEIL, GLYNN COUNTY
REGINA McDUFFIE, CITY OF BRUNWICK
PAUL CHRISTIAN, ROBERTS CIVIL ENGINEERING
PAM SHEIRLING, THE ISLANDER
GORDAN JOACKSON, BRUNSWICK NEWS

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 Richard Nixon, and passed unanimously to accept the amended 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

- **Swearing in of Board Members**
  Rees Sumerford did swearing in of the board members as follows:
  - **Richard Nixon** took the oath of office as a new board member for a three-year term, beginning August 1, 2025, and expiring July 31, 2030, or until his successor is appointed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve July 7th, 2026, Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

FINANCIALS

Approve June Financials

Joan Hearn reported that June places the organization at over 90 percent of the way through the fiscal year on budget.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Walter Rafolski to approve June 2026 financials as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration for Share the Future Grand for Silver Bluff Brewery - Innovating

Ryan Moore noted that Silver Bluff requested it be tabled until next month.

Consideration for Share the Future Grant for h2O Creative Group - Innovating

Ryan Moore reported that h2O is pursuing a Share the Future grant in the amount of $20,000, matched by GIDA dollar-for-dollar. The proposed grant would support the purchase of equipment needed to meet steadily increasing business demands. John Daniel, Anne Goodstein and Jeff Betts, representing H2O Creative Group, presented the organization's needs and responded to questions from the Board.

A **MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Richard Nixon to approve the Share the Future grant in an amount up to $20,000, dollar-for-dollar, from GIDA as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Consideration for Share the Future Grant for Brunswick Mercantile - Innovating

Ryan Moore reported that Brunswick Mercantile is pursuing a Share the Future grant in the amount of $20,000, matched by GIDA dollar-for-dollar. The proposed grant would support the purchase of equipment needed to meet customer demand and ensure efficient production; the business requires commercial-grade bakery and manufacturing equipment. Zach Siler, representing Brunswick Mercantile, presented the organization's needs and responded to questions from the Board.

A **MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve the Share the Future grant in an amount up to $20,000, dollar-for-dollar, from GIDA as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Consideration for Share the Future Grant for Brewer Technology Solutions, Inc. - Educating

Ryan Moore reported that Brewr Technology Solutions, Inc. is pursuing a Share the Future grant in the amount of $20,000, matched by GIDA dollar-for-dollar. The proposed grant would increase the overall talent pool for jobs by fostering skills development and creating more opportunities within the industry. Our goal is to attract and nurture a wider range of qualified candidates to meet the growing needs of the industry. Chris Brewer, representing Brewer Technology Solutions, Inc., presented the organization's needs and responded to questions from the Board.

A **MOTION** was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Walter Rafolski to approve the Share the Future grant in an amount up to $20,000, dollar-for-dollar, from GIDA as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

UPDATES

PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Annie Gregson Conference

McKenzie Padgett will attend the Annie Gregson Conference and provide a report at the next meeting.

MARKETING

Annual Marketing Update

McKenzie Padgett provided an update on the Annual Marketing efforts.

Create Speaker
McKenzie Padgett provided an update on the CREATE speaker.

GCAC
Informational Items reported by Rob Burr:

- Customer and Stakeholder Surveys
- Manning Aviation Hangar Construction and Fuel Farm Expansion- BQK
- GCAC August 18th meeting cancellation

IMPORTANT DATES

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 1st, 2026, at 9am at 209 Gloucester Street, Suite 211, Brunswick, GA 31520

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH
"As we kick off the new fiscal year, we are working toward our OKRs by attending a site-selection consultant event this month to strengthen key relationships and by joining the Lucas Center at Georgia Power's CREATE Summit on August 13 in Macon to share our entrepreneurship partnership.
Our marketing efforts are also producing measurable results. Last fiscal year, our social channels generated more than **2.8 million impressions**, **up 35%,** and **nearly 16,000 link clicks, up 19%**. We also secured **419 media placements**, reaching an estimated **427 million people**—demonstrating that Glynn County's economic development story is reaching a broader audience than ever before."

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 Walter Rafolski 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 Walter Rafolski and seconded Greer Anderson to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Returned to Open Session

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve Ryan Moore's salary, as presented and subject to legal review. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve hiring Suzanne Kirk with Employee Development Strategies, Inc. to work on job particulars, as presented and subject to legal review. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

ADJOURN
A MOTION to adjourn was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Greer Anderson. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:31am.

Chairman Bill Dawson

Attest:

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.