**September 1st, 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
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL
ROB BURR, GCAC
WAYNE NEAL, COUNTY
MATHEW HILL, DDA
JULIE MARTIN, DDA & SIGNATURE SQUARE PROPERTIES
RALPH STAFFINS, BRUNSWICK-GOLDEN ISLES CHAMBER
ALLY MOLINE, SILVER BLUFF BREWERY
BRIAN WEESE, GICCA
JENNIFER FORDHAM, GaDCA
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**

Ryan Moore requested to amend the agenda to include the of election of officers for 2027.

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

- **Officer Election**
  **New Board Officers for 2027 as stated:**
  Bill Dawson – Chairman
  Daren Pietsch – Vice Chairman
  Greer Anderson – Secretary-Treasurer

**A MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski seconded by Greer Anderson and passed unanimously to elect current officers 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**
***Annual Report***
Ryan Moore reported on and distributed the Annual Report to the Board, with additional copies provided for those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
**A MOTION** was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve August 4th, 2026, Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

**FINANCIALS**
***Approve July Financials***
Joan Hearn reported that July is the first month of the new fiscal year. There was nothing significant to report other than the grants awarded to date through the Share the Future program.
A **MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve July 2026 financials as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**
***Consideration for Share the Future Grand for Silver Bluff Brewery – Innovating and Educating***
Sherri Pruitt reported that Silver Bluff Brewery is seeking both innovating and education grants for two new high-capacity commercial tankless gas water heaters and training and education

on the new equipment to ensure it is used effectively. Ally Moline with Silver Bluff Brewery presented the organization's needs and responded to questions from the Board.
A **MOTION** was made by Walter Rafolski and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve the Share the Future grant in an amount up to $20,000, dollar-for-dollar, for both the Innovating and Educating from GIDA as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

**UPDATES**
**PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Ryan Moore announced that congratulations were in order for our very own Matthew Hill, who not only received the *Downtown Development of the Year Award*, but also the well-deserved *Inspired Leadership Award*. The Board congratulated Matthew on these outstanding accomplishments and recognized his contributions and leadership in the community.

**NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION**
***Annie Gregson Conference***
Ryan Moore reported that McKenzie Padgett is attending the Annie Gregson Conference in Texas and will provide an update on the conference at next month's meeting.

***GEDA Monthly Luncheon***
Ryan Moore participated in the GEDA monthly luncheon, which was held in Warner Robins, Georgia. The luncheon focused on Food processing projects.

***GEDA Annual Conference***
Ryan Moore reported that the GEDA Annual Conference will be held in Savannah for the final year. Both Ryan Moore and Sherri Pruitt are planning to attend. An update on the conference will be provided at next month's meeting.

**EXISTING INDUSTRIES**
***FTZ Conference***
Sherri Pruitt attended the FTZ Conference in Tampa. She shared that one of her key takeaways from the conference was recognizing that there is still much to learn about Foreign-Trade Zones. As additional staff comes on board, Sherri plans to pursue her CZS (Certified Zone Specialist) certification to better serve and support existing industries in the community.

***Industry Leader Roundtable and Survey***
Sherri Pruitt sent a survey to local industries to identify the best and most pressing issues facing our community, as well as to gather input on preferred meeting frequency, including monthly, quarterly, or annually. The initial kickoff is planned for October, in recognition of Industry

Appreciation Month, and will serve as a meet-and-greet opportunity for industry partners to connect with one another. The annual *Industry Appreciation Dinner* will be moved to February or March.

**WORKFORCE**

***State of the Workforce***

Ryan Moore participated in the Chamber's workforce event, which had a great turnout and was an enjoyable and productive event.

***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 October, the event will be held at the new College of Coastal Georgia Center for the Arts. Anyone interested in contributing swag for the event can contact Sherri after the meeting.

***Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant Americal Tour***

Sherri Pruitt reported on the Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant tour, describing it as being like touring the "Disney of manufacturing," with the opportunity to see the entire process from sheets of metal to a finished vehicle. Several Board members expressed interest in taking the tour. Antwoine Muhomad with the Savannah WTC will contact Sherri when the Metaplant begins offering public tours in the near future.

***Talent Discovery Showcase***

Ryan Moore reported on the upcoming First Friday quarterly event scheduled for next month. Additional details and updates will be provided as the event approaches.

***Kings Bay Visit***

Ryan Moore reported on the continued initiative to strengthen the workforce pipeline with veterans. A trip to Kings Bay served as the initial kickoff for the initiative. Additional updates will be provided as the project progresses.

**MARKETING**

***Chamber Capital Trip***

Ryan Moore reported on the upcoming trip and asked Ralph Staffins to update everyone on it. Ralph reported that the Chamber Capital Trip is scheduled for next week. A strong group of approximately 35 community members will be attending, with meetings already scheduled and additional meetings being arranged. Ralph also noted that the Grits and Issues will be held on December 10th this year with a federal panel and new congressman heading up the panel.

***Create Speaker***
Ryan Moore reported that Georgia Power hosted the CREATE event, which had approximately 250 attendees. McKenzie Padgett and Ande Noktes attended on behalf of our area. Ryan noted that our community is at the leading edge of these efforts and continues to be ahead of the curve.

**GCAC**
**Informational Items reported by Rob Burr:**

- The BGI Airport terminal dedication for Woody Woodside is schedule for September 29, 2026 at 1:30 with invitations to follow
- The Airport Commission September date has been rescheduled to Se3ptember 22, 2026 at 9am due to the Chamber Capital trip.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 6th, 2026, at 9am at 209 Gloucester Street, Suite 211, Brunswick, GA 31520

**MESSAGE OF THE MONTH**
GIDA is focused on strengthening relationships and expanding opportunities for Glynn County. This month, our team connected with statewide partners and site-selection consultants, supported Brewer Technology Solutions through an Elevate Glynn Matching Grant, and began developing an Industry Leader Roundtable. We also visited Kings Bay to explore connecting transitioning military personnel with local jobs and are preparing for the Talent Discovery Showcase on October 2. Our newly printed FY26 Annual Report is available at goldenislesdev.com under "About" and "Annual Report.

**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 Walter Rafolski 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 Daren Pietsch to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

# Returned to Open Session

A **MOTION** was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve the Hillpointe contract funds to be provided to the County, as presented and subject to legal review. The **MOTION** carried, **3-0**, with Walter Rafolski abstaining from the vote.

**ADJOURN**

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch. The MOTION carried unanimously: 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.

*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.