



September 2nd, 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
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF
JOAN HEARN, STAFF
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL
RALPH STAFFINS, CHAMBER
TERRA WINSLETT, GCAC
SHAWNA WILLIAMS, GCAC
PATRICIA YOUNCE, GCAC
BRIAN WEESE, GICCA
JULIE MARTIN, SIGNATURE PROPERTIES GROUP
GORDAN JACKSON, BRUNSWICK NEWS
WANDA DAWSON, GLYNN COUNTY CITIZEN
BENJI BENNETT
CARMON COOK

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chairman Bill Dawson was recognized by the board and staff in celebration of his 80th birthday.

ACCEPT AGENDA

A MOTION was made by Walter Rafolski, seconded by Greer Anderson, and passed unanimously to accept agenda 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

Ryan Moore reported that a QR code has now been included on the agenda for ease of access.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Walter Rafolski to approve August 5th, 2025, Minutes as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

FINANCIALS

Approve July Financials

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

A MOTION was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Walter Rafolski to approve July financials as presented. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 4-0.

UPDATES

PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

New Business Attraction

Project Update

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Authority hosted three site visits this month. Advanced manufacturing remains the predominant sector represented in current projects.

GEDA Annual Conference

McKenzie Padgett reported that the GEDA Annual Conference is scheduled for Savannah Georgia this year. She and Ryan Moore will attend with more to come.

Area Development Fall Forum

McKenzie Padgett reported that she will be attending the Women in Economic Development Fall Forum in Chicago. More to come.

RSM Update

McKenzie Padgett reported that RSM event has 32 project managers and 6 consultants registered for this year's event, with a waitlist already in place. Additional details to follow as the date approaches.

Georgia Center of Innovation

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Georgia Center of Innovation is a branch that operates under the Georgia Department of Economic Development. The Authority met with them to discuss partnership with Lucas Center. More to come.

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.

Share the Future Video

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Willies Winee Wagon video featuring Donte will be shown at the next meeting. In the meantime, she shared a quote from one of the Share the Future recipients, Coastal Armory, along with photos from another project where the Authority, Georgia Power, and Coastal Greenery assisted Wings of Grace in moving into their new hangar space. Both examples highlight the positive impact these Share the Future efforts have on the community beyond the grant itself.

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. This year, the program will also recognize the Classified Employee of the Year, which includes administrative, maintenance, and cafeteria staff. Sponsorship opportunities start at \$250, and contributions of swag items are also welcome. Members interested in participating are encouraged to contact her directly.

State of Workforce Chamber Event

Ryan Moore reported that the State of the Workforce Chamber Event was well attended and well represented. The panel provided an overview of current developments in local educational institutions and the workforce industry.

MARKETING

Annual Marketing Update

McKenzie Padgett reported significant growth across the Authority's social media platforms, noting increases on each channel. She also highlighted that the annual e-newsletter continues to achieve high open rates, exceeding industry averages.

Chamber DC Fly-In

Ryan Moore reported that the Authority will participate in the DC Fly-In next week. Ralph Staffins noted that aerospace will be the key industry focus, with additional updates to follow. This year, 35 representatives from the Glynn County area will be in attendance.

Year In Review Distribution

McKenzie Padgett distributed the Year in Review to the board and attendees, highlighting the Authority's activities and accomplishments for the year.

GCAC

Quarterly Financial Report

Shawna Williams presented the GCAC quarterly financial report to the Authority.

IMPORTANT DATES

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, at 9am at 209 Gloucester Street, Suite 211, Brunswick, GA 31520

Richard Nixon arrived at 9:45am

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 Walter Rafolski and seconded by Daren Pietsch to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

Returned to Open Session

ADJOURN

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

Chairman Bill Dawson

Attest:

Sherri Pruitt

Director of BR&E / Golden Isles Development Authority