

**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY
OF JEFFERSONVILLE AND TWIGGS COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING
October 27, 2016**

6:30 P.M. Development Authority Office; dinner provided by Attorney Kevin Brown.

PRESENT: Mr. Jerry Fincher, Chairman; Mr. Cecil Fountain Jr., Vice-Chair; Mrs. Cindie Nobles, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Walt Ashby, Mr. Eddie Stephens, Mr. Derrick Height and Mrs. Louise Wimberly, Board Members. Mr. Kevin Brown, Attorney. Mrs. Judy Sherling, Executive Director.

VISITORS: Jonathon Connell, Middle Georgia Regional Commission; Mr. James Tidwell, Twiggs Times-New Era

MINUTES: Mrs. Wimberly made a motion to approve the Sept. 26, 2016 minutes as presented with a second by Mr. Height. Unanimous Vote. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Stephens made a motion to approve the September 30, 2016 Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Height seconded. Unanimous Vote. Motion Carried.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Connell presented the final re-submission of the OneGeorgia Equity Grant for signatures. The total request will be for \$411,800 to be used to pave Connie Davis Dr. and to clear, rake, grub, grass and fence the 53-acre I-16 tract. Signage is also included in the project. Mr. Ashby made a motion to approve the final application, seconded by Mr. Height. Unanimous Vote. Motion Carried. The grant will be submitted on Friday, Oct. 28, in order to meet the Oct. 31 deadline.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business to discuss.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

AMBULANCE PROGRAM UPDATE – Mrs. Sherling reported that funds are being sought for the match to the USDA Rural Tele-Medicine grant to provide ambulance service. One estimate is that between \$48,000 and \$56,000 is still needed. Accounts have been opened at both Bank of Dudley and Four County Bank for citizens to make deposits. Funds have been promised but no signed commitments have been received to date.

BUDGET DISCUSSION – Mrs. Sherling presented the budget and noted that the Mayor has indicated the City's financial situation is so bad that they cannot commit to any contribution at this time. The budget is based on the assumption that the income from the county, CHCS and BH Hall will continue at the current level. Expenses have been evaluated and gauged against the actual 2016 expense. Two items were removed – GEDA conferences and high-end repairs. The savings from those and other areas were reallocated to salary in order to step up the salary budget in stages over the next several years. This is part of a long-range plan to bring the salary level near a point that is competitive with other counties when Mrs. Sherling retires in the next three to four years. An example of salaries paid in nearby counties was reported based on the newly-filled position in Monroe County where the salary is at \$80,000. In order to be competitive, Twiggs County will need to raise its salary level to at least half that amount. The total revenue for 2017 budget is \$49,800 with \$45,000 coming from the county. The total expense is budgeted at \$62,235.37 which is even with 2016 actual expense. The remaining income will be carried over from 2016 when land sales brought in unbudgeted revenue. Mrs. Nobles made a motion to adopt the proposed budget with the changes discussed. Mrs. Wimberly seconded. Unanimous Vote. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

NEW MARKETING MATERIALS – Mrs. Sherling reported on her attendance at the GEDA luncheon where she met several statewide project managers and site consultants. She will follow up on those contacts.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING – the Twiggs 2020 plan will be a work in progress with hope that a retreat can be planned in early 2017 to include all partners (Authority, County, City and business representatives). The retreat has been requested by both Mayor Williams from Jeffersonville and Chairman Fowler from Twiggs County Commission.

MGEA – the Deep Roots Festival marketing event was cancelled after the hotel double-booked and had no rooms for the group. The funds paid (\$500) will be applied to the 2017 dues.

PROJECT “T” – Mrs. Sherling reported on a new prospect that is in the early stages of discussion. This would be a distribution project with an estimated \$10M investment needing between 20 and 50 acres. She will continue to work with the consultant. In preparation for future projects, an incentives grid was discussed and will be given consideration. Any offers will be addressed as needed by the Authority until the incentives grid is finalized and approved.

MEETING DATES – the Authority will not meet in November or December unless a called meeting is required. Mrs. Sherling also asked for flexibility in next June’s meeting schedule so she can attend a meeting in Washington, DC. Mr. Ashby made a motion to move the meeting to a different date to be determined closer to June, seconded by Mrs. Nobles. Unanimous Vote. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – no executive session was needed at this meeting.

ADJOURN: Mrs. Nobles made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Height seconded. Unanimous Vote. Motion Carried. The meeting ended at 7:50 PM.

Mr. Jerry Fincher, Chairman

Mrs. Cindie Nobles, Secretary-Treasurer