

MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Pursuant to Public Notice issued by Secretary-Treasurer, Edderek L. Cole, the Regular Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority was held on February 28, 2024, at the Authority Office, 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1500, Jackson, MS, and via teleconference, at 10:00 a.m. The following were present constituting a quorum:

Trustees Present

Jason E. Owens, President
Willie A. Jones, Vice President – *via teleconference*
Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, Secretary-Treasurer
Vincent J. Byrd
James E. Covington
Dr. Yolanda D. McElroy – *via teleconference*
Robert G. Morgan, II – *via teleconference*
Jared W. Turner – *via teleconference*
Mark Wise

Trustees Absent

Louis P. Wright

Excused Absences

Dr. Vanda M. Brumfield

Staff Present

Luxie L. Frison, Director of Office Management & Accounting
Tamika E. Jenkins, Executive Director
Kemsye T. Smith, Director of Workforce Development

Staff Absent

None

Attorney Present

Dorian E. Turner

Guests Present

Dr. Nashlie Sephus, Bean Path
Rickey Thigpen, President & CEO, Visit Jackson
Cherre Miller, General Manger, Jackson Convention Complex
Murriel Wiley, IEDC ERC Program Fellow

**MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jason E. Owens called the Regular Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority to order at 10:06 a.m. and offered a minute for silent meditation. Luxie L. Frison recorded the minutes and provided hosting services for videoconference access to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Owens recommended to move agenda item #4, President's Briefing, after #6 Committee Reports in the absence of Dr. Nashlie Sephus who had not yet arrived.

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, with all five trustees (Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, and Turner,) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the agenda with recommended change of moving agenda item #4 after #6.

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Upon a motion by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, seconded by James E. Covington, with all five trustees (Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, and Turner) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to excuse the absence of Dr. Vanda D. Brumfield due to a business-related matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Jared W. Turner, with all five (Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, and Turner) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the January 31, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Vincent J. Byrd entered the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating & Governance Committee

Agenda item tabled until the next regular board meeting.

Willie A. Jones joined the meeting via teleconference at 10:22 a.m.

**MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Jenkins gave an oral and written report of requests, and ongoing projects and activities. She entertained questions throughout. (*Attachment No. 4*)

Funding Presentation

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Vincent J. Byrd, with all seven trustees (Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, and Turner) present voting, it was

RESOLVED to table the agenda item until a later time.

Byrd, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, and Turner all voted Yes, and Cole voted No.

The meeting moved back to the President's Briefing as Dr. Nashlie Sephus entered the meeting.

Mark Wise joined the meeting via teleconference at 10:34 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

Dr, Nashlie Sephus, Founder & CEO of the Bean Path, provided a history of the non-profit organization and an update of current and future projects.

The meeting moved back to the Executive Director's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of process of selling land at airport

No action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS

IEDC ERC Program – Fellow Update

IEDC Fellow, Murriel Wiley, greeted the board and shared her plans for assisting the municipalities in Hinds County during her time with HCEDA.

**MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

Approval of Selection Process for Governmental Consultant

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, with all seven trustees (Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, and Turner) present voting, it was

RESOLVED to table the agenda item.

Approval of Incentive for National Folk Festival

Dr. Ricky Thigpen, President and CEO of Visit Jackson, presented event and sponsorship information for the 82nd National Folk Festival. Executive Director Jenkins requested the board approve a financial commitment letter providing \$25,000 funding per year for marketing to be the National Folk Festival “Park N Ride” Sponsor.

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Vincent J. Byrd, with seven trustees (Byrd, Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Turner, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the financial commitment letter providing for \$25,000 per year for 3 years for marketing as the Nation Folk Festival “Park N Ride” Sponsor.

Willie A. Jones abstained from the vote.

Willie A. Jones left the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Approval of support letter to MDA for Bottletree Beverage \$7 Million expansion

Upon a motion by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, seconded by Mark Wise, with five trustees (Byrd, Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Turner, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to table the agenda item to a later time.

Trustees Morgan and Turner voted No.

Yolanda D. McElroy joined the meeting via teleconference at 11:29 a.m.

Industrial Park Improvements Update & proposed timeline

President Owens recommended to table the agenda item. The board agreed by unanimous consent.

**MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

MetroCenter Mall Update

No action was taken.

Workforce Development Grant

No action was taken.

DRA & Thriving Communities Grant Update

No action was taken.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report, consisting of a **Balance Sheet** and **Statement of Revenues and Expenses** for the period ending February 29, 2024, and Check Detail report were presented. (*Attachment No. 1 and 2*)

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, with all eight trustees (Byrd, Cole, Covington, McElroy, Morgan, Owens, Turner, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the February 2024 Finance Report as presented.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT

Director of Workforce Development and Assistant Business Development, Kemsye T. Smith, provided the board with a written and oral report providing updates on industry visits, ACT Work Readiness Certificate testing, the Workforce Nexus, and Hinds County workforce data. (*Attachment No. 3*)

Robert G. Morgan II left the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

RECONGNITION OF BIRTHDAYS

Jared W. Turner, Luxie L. Frison and Tamika Jenkins were recognized for February birthdays.

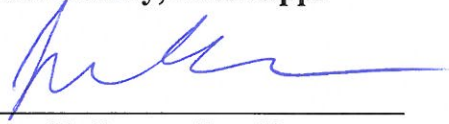
**MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mark Wise, seconded by James E. Covington, with all seven trustees (Byrd, Cole, Covington, McElroy, Owens, Turner, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

**Economic Development Authority
Hinds County, Mississippi**



Jason E. Owens, President

ATTEST this 28th day of February 2024.



Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

- 1. Finance Report**
- 2. Accounts Payable Report**
- 3. Workforce Development Report**
 - a. Hinds County Workforce Data**
 - b. ACT Work Ready Communities**
- 4. Executive Director Report**