

**MINUTES**  
**HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**

Pursuant to Public Notice issued by Secretary-Treasurer, Willie A. Jones, the Regular Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority was held on September 27, 2023, 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**

Dr. Hilliard L. Lackey, III - President  
Jason E. Owens, Vice-President  
Willie A. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr. Vanda M. Brumfield  
Vincent Byrd  
James E. Covington  
Edderek "Beau" Cole  
Dr. Yolanda D. McElroy- *via teleconference*  
Jared W. Turner – *via teleconference*  
Mark Wise  
Louis P. Wright

**Trustees Absent**

None

**Excused Absences**

None

**Staff Present**

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

**Staff Absent**

None

**Attorney Present**

Dorian E. Turner

**Guests Present**

Dr. Karla McCullough  
Erik Dampier

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Hilliard L. Lackey, III, called the Regular Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority to order at 10:01 a.m. Luxie L. Frison was appointed to record the minutes and provided hosting services for videoconference access to the meeting.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Board Counsel, Dorian E. Turner, administered the Trustee Oath of Office to new board member Robert G. Morgan, II.

**INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT**

Dr. Karla McCullough and Erick Dampier shared their MS Sports Complex Athletic Center project @ City Plaza (Old Jackson Square Promenade) on Terry Road in Jackson MS.

*James Covington entered the meeting at 10:02 a.m.  
Jason E. Owens leaves the meeting via teleconference and enters the boardroom at 10:14 a.m.*

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

President Lackey requested to modify the agenda by moving agenda items #15 (New Business) and #16 (Oaths of Office) after item #6 (President Report).

Upon a motion by Edderek Cole, seconded by Mark Wise, with ten trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Cole, McElroy, Turner, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the agenda with the modification. Trustee Morgan did not vote.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

None

**PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING**

President Lackey communicated to those trustees who were appointed by a Hinds County Supervisor who lost in the recent election that they may be asked by a newly elected Supervisor to resign from their seat, but they do not have to resign and can continue to serve until their term ends. In addition, President Lackey announced that he is officially resigning from the board effective today.

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Jenkins reported on general and project updates, grants and invited board members to attend a tour of the Amazon facility located on I-55 North in Jackson on October 17, 2023. In addition, Ms. Jenkins requested that board approve a support letter for the Mississippi Alliance for Targeted Career Help (MATCH) project. (*Attachment #3a*)

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

**RESOLVED** to allow Executive Director Jenkins to submit the MATCH letter of support upon the review and consent of the board counsel, Dorian Turner. (*Attachment #8*)

Executive Director Jenkins requested feedback on a suggested Legislative Mixer Meet & Greet with state legislators. Several trustees suggested meeting with the Hinds County delegation first and to wait until newly elected individuals are sworn into office.

Next, Ms. Jenkins stated that the Authority has received its Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Funding Agreement from HCBOS, and Vision First has completed the Strategic Plan. Therefore, she asked the board's availability for a special meeting to take action on these two items. The agreed upon tentative date for the special call meeting is October 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Jenkins applied for the services of an IEDC Economic Recovery Core Program Fellow for a two-year period to help HCEDA and asked for the board's support. Per Ms. Jenkins, this fellow would be at no cost, but the Authority must provide the individual with office space. The Authority has made the 1<sup>st</sup> round, and we should know more November/December. Board Counsel Dorian Turner noted that the Authority cannot donate public resources and asked for documentation on the program with detailed arrangements.

Lastly, Ms. Jenkins will be attending the HCBOS board meeting next week to ask for \$171,000 in general obligation funds that can be used for upgrades to our industrial parks.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Funding Agreement**

*Louis P. Wright entered the meeting at 10:59 a.m.*

Upon a motion by James Covington, seconded by Jason E. Owens, with twelve trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Cole, McElroy, Morgan, Turner, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Funding Agreement with Hinds County. (*Attachment #3b*)

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Mr. Cole requested that Executive Director Jenkins provide the corresponding exhibits relating to the Funding Agreement to the board members.

**Newman Foundation Land Purchase Request**

The Newman Foundation requests the board's support of rezoned land that was purchased in the Wynndale Industrial Park in which the Authority's covenants govern the industrial use only of the property. (*Attachment #3c*)

After review and discussion of the project, the board took no action.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Robert G. Morgan, II exited the meeting at 11:13 a.m.*

Board Counsel, Dorian Turner, suggested that committee members vote on committee meeting minutes at committee meetings and not be voted on by the full board.

Upon a motion by Jason E. Owens, seconded by Vincent J. Byrd, with eleven trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Cole, McElroy, Turner, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** that going forward, all committees will approve their meeting minutes at committee meetings. The September 18, 2023, Nomination & Governance Committee Meeting Minutes were pulled from the agenda.

Upon a motion by Edderek Cole, seconded by Jason Owens, with eleven trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Cole, McElroy, Turner, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the August 30, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Upon a motion by Edderek Cole, seconded by Jason Owens, with eleven trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Cole, McElroy, Turner, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the August 16, 2023, Executive Session Minutes from the Special Called Board Meeting as presented.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Nomination & Governance Committee**

Committee Chair Jones presented the committee's recommended state of officers for Fiscal Year 2023-2024: President - Jason E. Owens, Vice-President - Willie A. Jones, and Secretary-Treasurer - Edderek L. Cole.

President Lackey opened the floor for nominations for the office of President.

James E. Covington nominated Jason E. Owens. Mark Wise seconded the nomination.

Upon a motion by Louis P. Wright, seconded by James E. Covington, with nine trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Covington, Cole, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to close the nomination. With only one nomination, Jason Owens is the President Elect.

Mr. Turner voted No. Dr. McElroy was absent from the vote.

President Lackey opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice-President.

Mark Wise nominated Willie A. Jones.

Upon a motion by Edderek Cole, seconded by James E. Covington, with nine trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Covington, Cole, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to close the nomination. With only one nomination, Willie A. Jones is the Vice-President Elect.

Mr. Turner voted No. Dr. McElroy was absent from the vote.

President Lackey opened the floor for additional nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

Upon a motion by Mark Wise, seconded by Vanda M. Brumfield, with nine trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Covington, Cole, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to close the nomination. With only one nomination, Edderek Cole is the Secretary-Treasurer Elect.

Mr. Turner voted No. Dr. McElroy was absent from the vote.

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**Strategic Planning**

Committee Chair, James E. Covington reported that the draft report was shared with committee members and asked for feedback. No feedback was received, and it was suggested that the Strategic Plan be presented at the October 11, 2023, Special Called Board Meeting. Ms. Jenkins will provide the draft strategic plan to the full board following today's meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report, consisting of a **Balance Sheet** and **Statement of Revenues and Expenses** for the period ending August 31, 2023, was presented. (*Attachment No. 1*)

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT**

The Accounts Payable Report, consisting of a **Check Detail** for August 2023, was presented.

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

**RESOLVED** to approve the Accounts Payable Report for August 2023. (*Attachment No. 2*)

Upon a motion by Edderek Cole, seconded by Mark Wise, with all trustees present voting **AYE**, it was

**RESOLVED** to allow Luxie L. Frison to continue the business of the Authority and allow payment of future invoices received for the month of September 2023, since the fiscal year closes on September 30, 2023.

**AD VALOREM TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION**

**McNeely Plastics Products**

Upon a motion by Jason E. Owens, seconded by Edderek Cole, with eleven trustees (Lackey, Owens, Jones, Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Cole, McElroy, Turner, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to rescind the previous action on this item and recommend to the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, *Approval of the revised* Ad Valorem Tax Abatement for 22 mills of the general fund for a period of 10 years. (*Attachment #5*)

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**DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ASST. BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT**

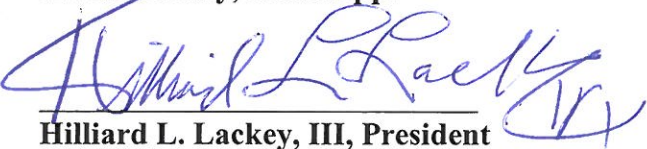
Director Kemsye T. Smith, provided the board with a written and oral report providing updates on industry visits, ACT Work Readiness Certificate testing, Workforce Nexus, and Hinds County workforce data.

Ms. Smith announced the ribbon cutting for Richard Bradley's Metro Booming Workforce Development Training Academy today and invited the board members to attend. Ms. Smith shared that she played a major role in providing assistance with the workforce program.

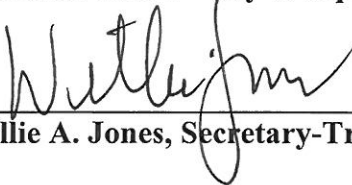
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

**Economic Development Authority  
Hinds County, Mississippi**

  
**Hilliard L. Lackey, III, President**

**ATTEST this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023**

  
**Willie A. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer**

**Attachments:**

- 1. Treasurer's Report**
- 2. Accounts Payable Report**
- 3. Executive Director Report**
  - a. Recompete Support Letter (MATCH)**
  - b. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Funding Agreement**
  - c. The Newman Foundation Letter**
- 4. Workforce Development Report**
  - a. Hinds County Workforce Data**
  - b. ACT Work Ready Communities**
- 5. Ad Valorem Tax Abatement Application**
  - a. McNeely Plastics Products**