

Bullock County Development Authority
Regular Session Meeting
May 3, 2022

The Bullock County Development Authority held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room at 106 Conecuh Avenue East, with Chairman LaDerrick Caldwell presiding.

Members Present

Thomas Main
Cope Lawrence
LaDerrick Caldwell
Lawrence Penn
Roderick Clark

Members Absent

Melma Gillis
Marsha Moffett

Others Present

David Padgett
Meagan Faulk
Elizabeth Smithart
Cynthia Smithart
John McGowan

A work session was held prior to the meeting at 4:30 pm.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman LaDerrick Caldwell.

Cope Lawrence made a motion to accept the agenda with an addendum (March Street property), and Lawrence Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes (April 5, 2022) were reviewed and approved upon a motion made by Roderick Clark. Cope Lawrence provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Cynthia Smithart reviewed the financial reports for April. Cope Lawrence made a motion to accept & approve the report. Lawrence Penn provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Bullock County Development Authority is seeking Track One: Recovery Grants funding to purchase a vehicle to be used as a Mobile Healthcare Clinic, as well as supplies and equipment to be able to utilize the vehicle to provide a Mobile Healthcare Clinic to citizens of Bullock County. The services provided by the MHC will include Covid-19 vaccine clinics, Covid-19 testing clinics, primary care clinic services including management of chronic health conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and outreach to community workforces including farm workers. The services will be provided through a partnership with BCDA, Bullock County Healthcare Authority and the Bullock County Hospital. PRM has agreed to pay up to fifty percent in matching funds. PRM will run the day-to-day operations & provide any supplies needed for the mobile clinic but BCDA own the vehicle.

During the previous meeting (April 5, 2022), Darren Beachem and Collie Graddick, members of the East Alabama Blackbelt Farmer’s Market explained the partnership with Barbour County

Farmer's Arena in Clayton & the Auburn University Extension Program. Mr. Beachem and Mr. Graddick explained the need for assistance regarding a USDA grant through Auburn University. BCDA would not be financially responsible but act as the fiscal agent. BCDA's assistance would be to provide a DUNS number for the grant as well as the SAMS.gov information. East Alabama Blackbelt Farmer's Market is a non-profit organization. The program is designed to increase production and distribution of fruits & vegetables throughout Bullock County & surrounding areas, including the school system. The request for BCDA to be the fiscal agent was tabled for thirty days. Attorney Smithart requested more information regarding the grant and funding. A Special Called Meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022.

During last month's meeting, Tim Simpson, Engineer for the City of Union Springs, presented a request for a portion of land located on March Street (across from DHR) pending the sale of the current Recreation Center to Wayne Farms. Mr. Simpson had asked that a commitment be made from BCDA to transfer the deed over to the City of Union Springs once the sale has been finalized and the City is ready to construct the new Community Center/Recreation Center. The City of Union Springs and Wayne Farms are currently in negotiations. Wayne Farms intends to tear down the old building and expand their operations. David Padgett asked for approval to have the property surveyed by Tim Simpson, City of Union Springs Engineer/Barrett & Simpson. The said property is seven acres, labeled Parcel 1, located on March Street. Cope Lawrence made a motion to approve the request. Lawrence Penn provided the second. Roderick Clark abstained from voting.

David Padgett presented an updated Site Prep Guidelines list. He asked the board during the last meeting to review prior to this next meeting and make recommendations & suggestions. Chairman Caldwell asked that BCDA is flexible when considering funding requests. Roderick Clark made a motion to approve the request. Cope Lawrence provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Meagan Faulk requested approval for the 2022 Community Revitalization Program Committee recommendations. She informed the board that a committee meeting was held on April 28, 2022 to review the applications submitted. The CRP was advertised in the Herald Newspaper for six weeks. The CRP Committee made the following recommendations: City Sophisticate \$3,000.00; Jackie's Fashion \$3,000.00; New Direction Childcare \$5,000.00; Union Springs AG \$6,000.00; Napa Auto Parts \$5,000.00; Fa'Chaes Coiffures \$3,000.00. The CRP Committee members are Cecilia Moorer, Essie Thomas, Melma Gillis and Dr. Mark Moore. Mr. Penn voiced his concerns regarding the same applicants applying & receiving funding as the previous years. He suggested postponing the CRP for a year to allow changes to be made and to consider revamping the program. Further discussion will be had during future meetings. Roderick Clark made a motion to approve the CRP recommendations, and Lawrence Penn provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Cope Lawrence informed the Board that the Airport Authority did not meet last month. He will give an airport update during the next board meeting.

Bonnie Plants Senior Career Day was held on April 28th.

Mr. Patel plans to open his service station at the end of May.

Chief Ronnie Felder asked BCDA to assist in funding police units.

David Padgett will travel to Columbiana, AL for the Extension Program.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m. on the motion of Roderick Clark and a second by Lawrence Penn. The vote passed unanimously.