

Minutes
Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton and Bowman
July 9, 2025

Chairman Al McCall called the meeting to order. Present were Caitlin Dye, Mayor Daniel Graves, Anna Grant Jones, Tamara Butler, Robert Wheeler, Mr. Steve Banks, guests and media. Mrs. Mary Clark, Mr. Lee Vaughn and Mr. Kevin Eavenson were absent.

After the Pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Mayor Graves.

Approval of the Agenda. Ms. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda; seconded by Mr. Wheeler. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2025. Mayor Graves made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Banks. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report. Mrs. Dye reported the \$10,000 surplus at the end of the year could help pay for the due diligence studies. The fund balance thru June is \$69,404.83.

Discussion and consideration of the ECS Limited Phase 1 ESA Proposal. Mrs. Dye stated she wanted to make it clear as discussed at the June meeting, that the Wetlands Package was \$9,400 and the Phase 1 total is \$3,200. Both costs are covered in the budget; she wanted to confirm that the Board was fine with that. The Board approved doing the studies at the June meeting, but she wanted to confirm approval of the Phase 1 proposal. Mayor Graves made a motion to approve the Phase 1 proposal from ESA. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and consideration of the FY2026 Budget. Chairman McCall stated there is a slight COLA increase to Mrs. Dye's salary from \$85,000 to \$87,550. After discussion with the Executive Committee about the budget, there is a slight deficit, but have the reserves to pull from. He went on to say that next year, maybe earlier in the spring we would get together with the entities and discuss an increase in the budget. Mrs. Dye stated she tried to keep the program expenses the same as last year; the main reason for going over budget is the website maintenance that went up around 50%. She said that this year she's trying to stay frugal, then hopefully we'll have a surplus and won't have to pull from the fund balance. Mayor Graves made the motion to approve the FY2026 Budget of \$171,100; Mr. Banks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and consideration to approve CD Terms for Reserve Funds. Mrs. Dye discussed looking at putting the fund balance in a CD to draw some interest. She talked to several banks about interest rates; with Northeast Georgia Bank having the best rate for a 7-month CD at 4.25% rate. She asked for the Board's opinion or options. Mayor Graves said that he wasn't opposed but the yield on that small of an amount would not be substantial. He also stated he would leave that to Mrs. Dye's discretion. No vote is required.

Director's Report. Mrs. Dye stated Brittany Standifer and Seth Brookshire, UGA CRC Program Coordinators, toured the County and visited a quarry and a granite finishing plant. She did have one client for her Workforce Wednesday project. Also, had an additional RFI to come in from one that we submitted in April. She reached out to the State Coordinators about the ones we submitted in April to see if there were any follow-ups, but have not heard anything.

Adjournment. Mayor Graves made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Jones. The motion passed unanimously.