

City of Sandy Springs Development Authority Special Called Meeting was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 8:30 a.m., Vice Chair John Paulson presiding.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair John Paulson called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Vice Chair John Paulson, Member Hardy Dorsey, Member Joe Houseman, Member Ed Ukaonu

Member Absent: Chair Chip Collins (attended by Zoom), Member Toshia Battle, Member Sunny Park

Staff Present: Raquel González, City Clerk; Nathifa Cunningham, Assistant City Clerk; Caroline Davis, Economic Development Manager

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Member Hardy Dorsey**, seconded by **Member Joe Houseman** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

DA2024-01 January 12, 2023 Sandy Springs Development Authority Meeting Minutes

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Member Ed Ukaonu**, seconded by **Member Joe Houseman**, to approve the January 12, 2023 Sandy Springs Development Authority Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

V. New Business

DA2024-02 2024 Development Authority Annual Meeting Schedule

Caroline Davis, Economic Development Manager, proposed the Development Authority meet at 8:30 a.m. on 2024 March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12, and November 14 in 2024. The Authority's bylaws require the Sandy Springs Development Authority meet on the second Thursday of the new year to elect officers. Staff proposed a meeting calendar on the second Thursday of every other month at 8:30 a.m. The meetings can be rescheduled or cancelled if there are no items for discussion. This proposed schedule allows staff to block your calendar throughout the year and hold the dates for discussion.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Member Joe Houseman**, seconded by **Member Ed Ukaonu**, to approve the proposed Sandy Springs Development Authority 2024 Meeting Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

DA2024-03 Election of 2024 Development Authority Officers

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Authority from among the directors of the Authority, and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Member Hardy Dorsey**, seconded by **Member Ed Ukaonu**, to approve the election of Chip Collins as Chair and John Paulson as Vice Chair to the Sandy Springs Development Authority. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Chip Collins thanked the members of the Development Authority for their service to the City of Sandy Springs. This continues to be an exciting time in the City and we may have some deals to consider. I look forward to working with everyone again.

VI. Other Business

Vice Chair Paulson asked **Caroline Davis, Economic Development Manager**, to provide an overview of what may come this year.

Economic Development Manager Davis said there are a few strings of development in the City. You are aware interest rates are high and people are holding off buying a home. Also, there are soft conversations about the Development Authority starting a project sooner and include elements that it otherwise would not have. Staff is working to fine tune application and guidelines for this board to consider and hopefully by the next meeting. We anticipate a few applications this year for projects in the City and we want to provide support behind those.

The Economic Development Department started a project with some Public Policy students from Georgia Tech to do a comprehensive review, within the department, of the incentive program, and Best Practices for other economic development organizations in Georgia and nationally. We expect a draft report by the end of March. This may be presented at the May meeting, depending on their findings and recommendations. We specifically asked they review commercial and property improvement grants. This was a recommendation in the City Springs master plan and was discussed briefly at last year's meeting to determine if feasible, practical and can achieve goals the City of Sandy Springs and Development Authority set forth.

Lastly, **Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer**, provided the Development Authority's balance which stands at \$108,403.49 as of November 30th. This includes a portion for hospitality needs.

Vice Chair Paulson asked what are neighboring communities saying about projects that were progressing but stopped until interest rates have settled?

Economic Development Manager Davis said projects in motion are continuing, and proposed projects have more research to fine-tune plans and explore cost saving options.

Vice Chair Paulson said it is an interesting time with interest rates not going down yet.

Vice Chair Paulson said there are several projects Chair Collins and I have informally heard about and discussed with some folks. Hopefully those will come forward and we will be able to conduct some real benefit to the City of Sandy Springs.

VII. Adjournment

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Member Hardy Dorsey**, seconded by **Member Ed Ukaonu**, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Date approved: March 14, 2024

William ‘Chip’ Collins, Chair

Raquel D. González, City Clerk