

**THOMASTON-UPSON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES OF THE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, BOARD MEETING CITY/COUNTY MEETING ROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Brue
Lonnie Joyce, Vice-Chairman, presided in the chair's absence
Jennifer Rogers
J. D. Stallings
Slade Gullede, Executive Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Susan Hill, Office Administrator
Johnnie Caldwell, Attorney

GUESTS:

Dave Piper, WTGA Radio
Mark Woodall

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:11 PM.

Lonnie Joyce, Vice-Chairman and IDA board member appointed by the city in 2021, has accepted the position of Upson County's County Manager. Due to the county ordinance prohibiting county employees from serving on appointed boards, Mr. Joyce will no longer be serving on the IDA board. We all appreciated his service and dedication.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Brue and approved to accept the August 25th minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Rogers seconded by Mr. Stallings and approved to accept the August 2025 financial reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Director's Report

Mr. Gullede will not give a formal "Director's Report" every month. Any questions by the board concerning his written report will be answered.

2. Farm Lease Renewal Agreement

Mr. Hugh Thompson has proposed leasing 150+- land in the Central GA Business and Technology Park, in the amount of \$1,500.00 this year. The lease has a provision of annual renewal for up to five years, (this is the fourth year). The lease states the tenant will get a 90-days prior written termination notice to terminate the lease. Also, the IDA and acting for the IDA shall have the right to enter the property at all times for the purpose of inspections, testing, or showing the property, provided that the landlord shall use reasonable efforts to avoid interference with the tenant's activities of the property. The farm lease expires 30th of September. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Brue and seconded by Ms. Rogers and approved Mr. Thompson proposal for the lease agreement.

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3. Discussion and Possible Consideration of Support for Georgia FLEX (Foundation Leadership & Entrepreneurship Xperience)

The Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce Keep Shining Upson Foundation INC, in partnership with the Thomaston-Upson Schools, is committed to preparing the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs who will drive growth in our community. FLEX is designed to give high school students a hands-on opportunity to build and operate their own businesses, guided by mentors from the business community, while also learning critical workforce and leadership skills. Unlike traditional classroom learning, FLEX empowers students to put ideas into action—competing locally and statewide, earning real revenue, and gaining practical experience that will set them apart in college, careers, and future entrepreneurial endeavors.

By exposing students to leadership, collaboration, and innovation, the program not only strengthens individual participants but also contributes to the long-term vitality of Upson County by cultivating a stronger workforce pipeline and encouraging homegrown entrepreneurial talent to invest back into their community. To successfully implement this program in its first year, the Chamber has committed a total investment of \$20,000. A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Brue and approved to make a \$2,500.00 contribution for year 2025 and \$2,500.00 for year 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Rogers, seconded Mr. Brue and approved to go into Executive Session. This motion was unanimously approved by the following, which were present, Mr. Joyce, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Stallings, Mr. Brue

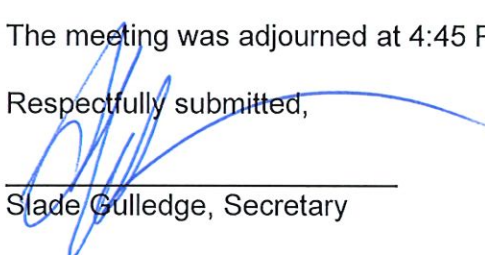
A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Brue, seconded Ms. Rogers and approved to exit Executive Session.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Slade Gullledge, Secretary