

**Statesboro Business Commission
50 East Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia
City Council Chambers
Called Meeting
March 15, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Gloria Strauthers, Chairperson; Tom McKeithen, Member; Prince Preston, Member; Maurice Hill, Member; Alivia Lloyd, Member

STAFF AND EX-OFFICIO PRESENT

Olympia Gaines, Assistant to the City Manager; Leah Harden, City Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Benjy Thompson, CEO Development Authority of Bulloch County; Allen Muldrew, Executive Director Downtown Statesboro Development Authority, Alan Gross, Business Recruiter GSU Innovation Group; Patrick Woock, GSU Business Incubation Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Strauthers called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Development Authority of Bulloch County

Mr. Thompson's presentation covered the mission, structure, and history of the Development Authority. He also provided information on how important the Development Authority's role, along with that of the local governing bodies, is to creating a legacy of sustained growth. Mr. Thompson shared his experiences with various projects over the years. He discussed the creation of the Savannah Harbor-Interstate 16 Corridor Joint Development Authority with Bulloch, Bryan, Effingham, and Chatham Counties and how this collaboration between counties helped set the stage and draw for the new Hyundai Meta Plant. He stated that timing is important in economic development. Mr. Thompson provided information on the Hyundai plant and also shared potential impacts on Statesboro and Bulloch County.

Alan Gross, Business Recruiter GSU Business Innovation Group

Mr. Gross introduced himself and shared with the group what his position entails. He shared that his position was created out of a collaborative partnership between the City of Statesboro and Georgia Southern BIG. Mr. Gross extended his resources and offered to provide assistance to the Commission in gathering and analyzing data relating to small businesses.

Patrick Woock, Director, GSU Business Incubation

Mr. Woock introduced himself and shared with the group his responsibilities and vision as the Director of GSU Business Incubation. He stated that because of his experiences in both the academic and industry worlds, he is able to connect the two and provide valuable insight that will take what GSU's Business Innovation Group is doing to the next level. Mr. Woock offered his expertise and resources to the Commission.

Allen Muldrew, Executive Director of the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority

Mr. Muldrew provided a brief overview of the DSDA. He shared how DSDA has grown and expanded over the years. He stated the organization is committed to economic development, historic preservation, and the vibrancy of Statesboro's downtown area. Mr. Muldrew extended his resources to the Commission.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

They thanked each of the presenters for the information they presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Announcing no other business to discuss, Chairperson Strauthers adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

_Gloria Strauthers, Chairperson

Date