



EDACC Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee		
July 11, 2025		EDACC Conference Room
Called by	Jean Garniewicz - called the meeting to order at 8:48	
Meeting	Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee	
Facilitator	Jean Garniewicz	
Note taker	Linda Peplau	
Adjourned	9:32 AM	
Attendees	Jean Garniewicz & Rick Evans	
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman & Linda Peplau	
Meeting Agenda		
1 minute	Jean Garniewicz	
Discussion	Jean Garniewicz called for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the July 11, 2025, Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee meeting & the minutes for the May 09, 2025, Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee meeting.	
Conclusions	Motion: Rick Evans 2nd: Jean Garniewicz The motion passed unanimously (2-0).	
Minutes of Previous Meeting		
0 minutes	Jean Garniewicz	
Discussion	See above.	
Conclusions	Motion: Rick Evans 2nd: Jean Garniewicz The motion passed unanimously (2-0).	
Old Business		
8 minutes	Jean Garniewicz	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed house rental options for Masters 2026.• Cheney shared positive bullet points from some recent data center news articles.• Technology Park website updates:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The website is live for public use.○ The website will be linked to EDACC's website for fast & easy access.○ The website will help mitigate concerns by addressing the most frequently asked questions.• Georgia's Public Service Commission special election will be held on November 04, 2025.• The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP energy plan) for the state will be voted on this month (07.2025) by the Georgia Public Service Commission.	



New Business & Updates

35 minutes	Jean Garniewicz & EDACC staff
Discussion	<p>Stuart Hilsman shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a brief Wage Survey update. • Stuart brings the board up to date on his Existing Industry visits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Micronics - manufacturer of filtration systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Micronics acquired FLSmidth in July 2023 * Micronics merged with Cleanova in March 2025 ○ Healthwise, Nutritional, Resources Inc. ○ Stuart shared that an important topic at his visits included the need for a skilled set workforce. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Shared researched information on Augusta Tech's Apprenticeship program. • Stuart shared his goal of wanting to be a liaison for the existing industries and the technical school's administrators (Julie Langham). This partnership will help bridge the gap for a strong & skilled workforce with a smooth transition from school to career. <p>• Stuart shared that he and Anita Patel met with Dr. Brooks Smith (Director of CTAE=Career, Technical & Agricultural Education) on 07.09.2025 to begin building a partnership with community programs to market to talent for workforce placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work-Based Learning Internships ○ CTAE Pathways - trade skills, placement and bridging ○ Be Pro Be Proud experience - interactive learning @ College and Career Expo ○ Untapped workforce opportunities ○ Chamber summer internship program <p>Rick Evans reiterates the suggestion of inviting Julie Langham of Augusta Technical College to a board meeting for a presentation of what the college offers regarding workforce development & placement in our community.</p>
Discussion	<p>Anita Patel shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New businesses in our community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening soon = Winston's Tavern @ 880 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans GA (Towne Center) ○ She provided some updates on The Premier apartments. ○ Oxygen Fitness Studio @ West Lake Commons <p>Jean Garniewicz suggested a board tour at the Columbia County Sherriff's Office, Real Time Crime Center.</p>
Adjournment	
9:32 AM	
Conclusions	<p>Jean Garniewicz called for a motion to adjourn:</p> <p>Motion: Rick Evans 2nd: Jean Garniewicz The motion passed unanimously (2-0)</p>
Next meeting: September 12, 2025	
Economic Development Authority Conference Room	