

**Warren County Economic Development Commission**  
**501 Hwy 158-Business East**  
**Warrenton, NC 27589**

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting October 16, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.  
Meeting held at Warren County Armory Civic Center

**Members Present:** Stanley Jones, Victor Hunt, Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Claude O'Hagan, Brock Pepper, Jim Whitley

**Members Absent:** Brady Martin, John Earl Alston

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Diane Cox, President Kerr-Tar COG; Rachel Desmarais, President VGCC

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Wayne Aycock, Mayor of Norlina; Carroll Harris, Mayor of Macon; Walter Gardner, Mayor of Warrenton; Leanne Patrick, Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce; Keith Sutton, Superintendent of WCPS

**Also Present:** Charla Duncan, Community and Economic Development Director; Rose Ponton, Economic Development Specialist; Vincent Jones, County Manager

**Guests:** Corei Somerville, Carolyn Holmes

The October 16, 2023 meeting of the Warren County EDC Board of Directors was called to order by Vice Chair Jim Whitley at 4:01 PM.

Vice Chair Whitley requested all to join him in a moment of silence & then read the conflict-of-interest disclaimer. No conflicts were identified. A quorum was verified.

Vice Chair Whitley asked members to review the September 2023 meeting agenda.

After review, a motion was made by Angelena Kearney-Dunlap to set the meeting agenda, seconded by Victor Hunt. Duly carried by a unanimous vote; the October 16, 2023 meeting agenda was set.

Vice Chair Whitley then invited board members to review the September 2023 meeting minutes. After review, a motion was made by Brock Pepper to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Stanley Jones, and duly carried by a unanimous vote; the September 18, 2023 minutes were approved.

Vice Chair Whitley then opened the floor to visitor introductions; Carolyn Holmes and Corei Somerville both introduced themselves to the board.

With the next agenda item a discussion of statements of interest to join the board, Mr. Somerville was then invited to retake the floor. He spoke more in-depth regarding his employment with Department of Defense and more recently, the Environmental Protection Agency, and his co-ownership of local food truck, Soulbachi. Vice Chair Whitley thanked him for his interest and informed him that a vote would take place at a subsequent meeting.

Angelena Kearney Dunlap then presented to the board her RTRP executive committee mission draft. After some discussion, Director Duncan advised Mrs. Dunlap that, if she desired, she could reach out for salient talking points ahead of executive committee meetings.

Vice Chair Whitley then entertained a motion from Claude O'Hagan to enter into closed session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) for Industry and Business Location and Expansion. With a second from Victor Hunt, and a unanimous vote in favor, guests were asked to step outside and the board entered closed session.

After discussion, Stanley Jones made a motion to exit closed session. With a second from Victor Hunt, and a unanimous vote in favor, the board emerged from closed session.

Director Duncan then presented her regular report, of which highlights included the completion of the survey for the Bridge Tech property, the Brownfields Program's presentation at the Warrenton Rotary, recent Phase IIs, the Boyd Dry Cleaner's application to the DSCA program, a meeting with an affordable housing developer, CORE draft progress, and the award of 3 million dollars to fund the future VGCC Transportation Hub planned for Warren County.

With no other business to discuss, Stanley Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Victor Hunt. Duly carried by a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.