

## Business Development and Workforce Taskforce Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 10, 2024

Meeting Time: 12:39 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Bobby Snipes Water Resource Center – Presentation Room

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/FIXCDQLSiZ8?feature=share>

### **Present Taskforce Members:**

Commissioner Carol Myers  
Commissioner Tiffany Taylor  
Ilka McConnell  
Matthew Epperson  
Tim Johnson  
Broderick Flanigan  
David Bradley

### **Facilitator:**

Kara Fresk

### **Guest & Staff:**

Kenshundria Bailey-Allen  
Alejandra Calva  
Joel Izlar  
Tamika Money

### **Absent Taskforce Members:**

Michele Pearson Tucker  
Shane Blackwell  
Dodd Ferrelle  
Wesley Mellina  
Marvin Nunnally  
Sally Kimel-Sheppard

### **Meeting Notes:**

#### I. Approve Agenda

- David Bradley motioned
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ilka McConnell
- Unanimous motion to approve.

#### II. Approve 5/20/2024 meeting minutes.

- David Bradley motioned
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Tiffany Taylor
- Unanimous motion to approve.

#### III. Approve 06/03/2024 meeting minutes.

- Ilka McConnell motioned
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Carol Myers
- Unanimous motion to approve.

#### IV. Sub-Committee Presentations

##### **• Small Business Development**

- i. Expanding access to capital for “impact businesses” using ARPA dollars.
  1. Expanding the existing revolving loan fund, and creating a new impact business grant program.
- ii. Business succession through employee ownership (EO) training program (including transition knowledge, as well as knowledge about accessing capital for transitioning)
- iii. Business purchasing and marketing co-op outreach and training program, with special preference for minority, women, veteran and other special certification owned businesses.

- iv. Safe and stable childcare for all ACC Citizens in the workforce.
  1. Reached out to multiple childcare organizations and asked what to do with one time funding – response was consistently infrastructure development and professional development.
  2. Loan or grant program for childcare facilities

- a. Addresses childcare quality rather than individuals' access to childcare.
- b. Preserves (and in some cases increases) existing childcare spaces.
- c. Includes educating people who want to care for 2-3 children in their homes.

- **High Wage Employment**

- i. Training Program
  - 1. Upskilling program for people 18-35 in gap areas
    - a. Could be 18+ and it doesn't have to be capped at 35.
    - b. Essentially for individuals not in high school.
- ii. Raise awareness of high demand/high wage employment opportunities in Athens Youth
  - 1. Being addressed through AthensAchieves!
- iii. Local job seekers informed about high demand job opportunities and support to land positions
  - 1. Being addressed through AthensAchieves!

- **Worker Empowerment**

- i. Empowered Local Workforce
  - 1. Education for Youth, Adults and non-profits.
    - a. Multiple points of contact for full education.
    - b. Opportunity to collaborate with ACC industrial complex committee.
  - 2. Better working conditions, increase knowledge of Worker Labor Rights.
- ii. Increase local worker/apprentice opportunity in local taxpayer-funded capital project construction projects (ex. TADs, SPLOST, TSPLOST)
  - a. Increase apprenticeship opportunities
    - i. Expand beyond construction to electrical
      - 1. Electrical feeds into green jobs, higher wages, less physical demand.
      - 2. Construction could encompass electrical, plumbing, etc.
- iii. CBAs for ACC contracted business
  - 1. Find out if there will be changes to the procurement process based on the disparity study.

V. Closing

- Facilitator, Kara Fresk informed the taskforce that the June 17 meeting will be for organizing & prioritizing recommendations to present the Mayor and Commission.

VI. Adjourn

- Commissioner Tiffany Taylor motioned
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Broderick Flanigan
- Unanimous vote to approve.

## **TIMELINE**

Task Force Meetings – *updated as of 4/26/2024*

- June 17 – Full Task Force Meeting – Prioritizing

Recommendation to Mayor & Commission – *updated as of 4/26/2024*

- June 26 – Report Due
- July 9 – Mayor & Commission Work Session
- July 16 – Mayor & Commission Agenda-Setting Session
- August 6 – Mayor & Commission Voting Session

## **NOTES:**