

Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board  
Minutes – November 21, 2024

1. Call to Order: Chairman Joseph Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Roll Call -: Chairman Joseph Richardson, Vice Chairman Daniel Rhoades, Directors Laura Boman, Scott Ritchie and Donny Pearson.

Absent None.

Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director, and Joni Ary – Recording Clerk

3. Citizens with Input – None
4. New Business:

- a. Approval of October 17, 2024 minutes.

Vice Chairman Rhoades motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Director Pearson seconded; all were in favor, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

- b. Approval of October 2024 Financials

Vice Chairman Rhoades motioned to approve as presented; Director Boman seconded; all were in favor and unanimously approved. Ms. Wharton stated that the purchase of the nameplates was the only expense.

- c. Remote Worker Survey Update

Since completing the survey, Ms. Wharton provided the results of the Remote Worker Survey to the Board. The board proposed putting together a slide show of the results for the City Council for feedback.

- d. Fundraising Strategy Discussion

Ms. Wharton reviewed with the board the options for the board to consider as approaches to raising funds for 2025 programs. The board proposed putting together a three (3) tier sponsorship package that would recognize sponsorship for specific events, showcasing the higher-tier and lower-tier sponsorships that would be recognized.

- e. Startup Week Planning Update

The Board discussed the logistics of the events and items in the works. Ms. Wharton updated the board on the promotional flyers Ms. Hartley is working on for the event. Ms. Wharton suggested getting some swag to give out at the event, with companies possibly sponsoring items to be passed out at the event.

- f. Speaker Series Update

The board discussed the logistics of the speaker series. It was determined that the series would kick off in January 2025 and March 2025. Chairman Richardson will lead the first event in January, focusing on A.I.

5. Staff Items:

a. Discussion items from the City Manager

i. KSU Survey Update

Director Boman stated that she passed out the survey to all her students and shared it with surrounding colleges, i.e., Mercer University and Middle Georgia State University.

b. Volunteer Commitment Forms

Ms. Wharton stated that all members have signed the volunteer forms.

c. Prospective New Board Member

Ms. Wharton updated the board on the prospective new board members. Still waiting for the official submission.

Due to the holidays, Ms. Wharton asked the Board about the scheduled meeting on December 19, 2024. The board's consensus is to keep the scheduled meeting in December.

6. Member Items:

Vice Chairman Rhoades discussed his new position at the Museum of Aviation and its STEM academy and how some work may intersect with the Board's mission.

Chairman Richardson discussed the Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor and gave the website [www.middlegeorgiainnovates.com](http://www.middlegeorgiainnovates.com) for information on spreading STEM advancements.

7. Adjournment: With no further business to come before the board, Vice Chairman Rhoades motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm; Director Pearson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

*Approved 12.19.24*