

Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board  
Minutes - December 19, 2024

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairman Rhodes called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call: Vice Chairman Rhodes; Directors Boman, Pearson and Ritchie were present. Chairman Richardson was absent.  
Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director and Christine Sewell – Recording Clerk
3. Citizens with Input- None
4. Guest & Speakers - SparkMacon Representatives – Ms. Sierra Martin
5. Old Business – Review KSU Student Survey – Director Bowman advised only eighteen have been received and will push out again in 2025 at the start of the new semester and with new students; however, also suggested changing the demographics to 28-35 years old; the board agreed and Ms. Wharton concurred. It was also recommended in funding for a larger response pool through social media.
6. New Business
  - a. Approve November 21, 2024, Minutes  
  
Director Ritchie motioned to approve as submitted; Director Boman seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.
  - b. Approve November Financials  
  
Director Pearson motioned to approve as submitted; Director Boman seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved. Ms. Wharton advised Council approved \$5000 for funding.
  - c. Speaker Series Update  
  
Ms. Wharton advised the location and speaker have been confirmed for January 13, 2025 and will begin promotion in earnest after the holidays. In discussing the board suggested an RSVP for the event to gauge response and a guide for food.
  - d. Perry Startup Week Update  
  
Ms. Wharton provided promotion graphics, sponsorship levels, and noted the presenting sponsor of \$3000 has been secured, and a detailed outline for the event, which will take place February 24-28.
  - e. Review and Discuss SparkMacon Request  
  
Ms. Sierra Martin provided background on the organization and the structure of their program which includes financial literacy workshops, so you want to start a business workshop, entrepreneur’s happy hour and night and their collaboration with community partners and their desire to work with Perry. Vice Chairman Rhodes thanked Ms. Martin and advised the board would discuss and be back in touch.
7. Other Business
  - a. International Integrative Precision Agriculture Conference  
  
Ms. Wharton advised she had been contacted by UGA and they will be hosting in Perry in April 2025 at the fairgrounds and will provide more details when received.

b. Supplies Purchase Request

Ms. Wharton requested approval to purchase a step and repeat pop up banner for all events with an estimated cost of \$400. Director Boman motioned to approve purchase; Director Ritchie seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

8. Board Member Items - None

9. Adjournment: there being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.

*Approved 01.16.25*