



## **Minutes of Meeting of Gadsden Airport Authority Friday, January 19, 2024**

The Gadsden Airport Authority held a meeting at Gadsden City Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor in the conference room 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

In attendance: Board members Billy Billingsley, Steve Reagan, Tim McCartney, Kent Haney, Craig Denney, and Ken Robertson. Also attending were Airport Director Anthony Tarver, City Director of Engineering Heath Williamson, and Gadsden mayor's chief of staff Brett Johnson, Jason Goins from LH Construction Group, and Ed Howard of Ford, Howard, & Cornett PC.

Chairman Billingsley called the meeting to order.

A quorum was present.

**Approval of November & December 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve and adopt the minutes was made by Tim McCartney, seconded by Steve Reagan, and the Board unanimously approved.

**Approval of the November & December 2023 Financials:** Motion to adopt and approve the financials was made by Ken Robertson, seconded by Billy Billingsley, and unanimously passed by the Board.

Board member Kent Haney had mentioned that Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation was awarded deal of the year by a trade magazine and how it's a great accomplishment. Brett Johnson had mentioned that the city and the FAA have been working well together to help things move forward in relation to the land release deal.

**Director Report:** Airport Director Anthony Tarver mentioned that he spoke with engineers from GMC and the state has accepted their application to begin the process to allow bids to be open on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, pertaining to ALDOTs grant program regarding an airport apron renovation project for the year 2024 that will allow improvements to the apron and ramp areas of the airport. The project is slated to start in the Summer 2024.

Anthony Tarver also gave an update about the runway sealcoat project that is slated to start back up in April 2024 of this year. He also mentioned that after gathering feedback

from tenants from the airport about the rules and regulations that he and ALDOT are working together to get things amended so that they can be set in place and move forward with the process.

Ed Howard mentioned that we can't force the tenants to sign the document legally and there is nothing in the lease that states that either. So, we advise that we are working diligently to complete these tasks. Tarver mentioned that locks, gates, and proper signage have been set in place to ensure the safety and security of the airport.

**Approval of the 2024 Proposed Ramp Fees:** Airport Director Anthony Tarver explained to everyone the definition of a ramp fee and service fee. Anthony Tarver also mentioned that other airports charge ramp fees as an extra source of income and for taking on fueling services and other types of services that require extra work. Mr. Tarver mentioned he thinks it's a great idea, especially when it comes to generating an extra source of income for the airport. A few of the board members were not convinced about approving these fees because of the current shape of how the FBO looks. Some board members feel that if we as an airport are going to charge this amount of money then we need to have it look more presentable and make it worth the money we are charging the pilots for.

Board Member Kent Haney mentioned that some type of committee needs to be formed and made up of people who will check the FBO building out to see what and all it needs. The committee will consist of Board Members Ken Robertson, Craig Denney, and Steve Reagan.

Board Member Kent Haney also mentioned to Anthony Tarver that he wants him to present an analysis report of how much money we would make a month to justify whether it's worth charging ramp fees. The approval was denied until the analysis report is done to justify the ramp fee charges.

**LH Construction Group Hangar Presentation:** Jason Goins from LH Construction Group presented to the board his business model of wanting to build hangars at the Gadsden Airport and how an organization called the Hangar Owners Association would manage the operation and would pay the airport its money that is due. His company handles all the sitework and all he was waiting for the board to do was approve his business presentation.

Airport Director Anthony Tarver mentioned to the board for clarification on not wanting to do business with the individuals from Springs Aviation. The board said they did not want to move forward with them.

A motion to approve and allow LH Construction Group to submit a proposal to do a hangar project at the Gadsden Airport was made by Kent Haney, seconded by Tim McCartney, and the Board unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Billingsley and a second by Tim McCartney, and the meeting was adjourned.