Alabama Space Authority
Regular Meeting
November 20, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.
United Launch Alliance (ULA)
1001 Red Hat Road
Decatur, AL 35601

Senator Sam Givhan, Chairman, presiding and Ms. Jennifer Lee, Energy Division Chief with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), recording the minutes.

Prior notice of the meeting was given on November 12, 2024, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Call to Order:
Chairman Givhan called the meeting to order at 1:25 P.M. and requested that Ms. Lee conduct the roll call.

Roll Call
Members Present: 9
Senator Sam Givhan, Chair
Dr. Kimberly Robinson, Vice Chair
Dr. William T. Hutto (Joined Virtually)
Dr. Daniel Wims
Mr. Frank Farmer for Mr. John Cooper
Mr. Kenneth W. Boswell
Mr. Jordan Howard for Mr. Bill Poole (Joined Virtually)
Mr. Luther Roberts
Senator Chris Elliott

Members Absent: 3
Dr. Charles Karr
Major General Tim Crosby
Ms. Ellen McNair

With 9 members in attendance, Ms. Lee confirmed a quorum has been met.

Visitors: 10

Jennifer Lee
Daphne Ball
Robert La Branche
Kylie Nash
Jessica Sanders
Chrystal Morgan
Joe Rice
Stacey DeFore
Jon Barganier
Mike Ward

Welcome and Remarks

Chairman Givhan welcomed the members and visitors.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Givhan asked if there is a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on July 31, 2024.

Mr. Boswell made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Wims seconded the motion. Chairman Givhan asked if there was any discussion. With no discussion, Chairman Givhan asked all in favor of approving the minutes to say aye. The members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Reports and Presentations:

Presentation by Mrs. Chrystal Morgan with Alabama Aerospace and Defense Council- Mrs. Morgan provided an overview of the formation and purpose of the Alabama Aerospace and Defense Council (AADC) for the State of Alabama. The AADC was established with the assistance of Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth and Manufacture Alabama (MA). The primary goal of the AADC is to support small businesses by connecting them with larger entities such as local Chambers of Commerce and universities through sponsorships. She detailed the partnership between MA and the AADC, highlighting how the AADC conducts regional visits and helps organize Space Day in Montgomery, AL by hosting legislative networking events. The AADC also issues quarterly newsletters that include monthly meetings. Additionally, the AADC has launched an internship program aimed at developing the workforce. Mrs. Morgan asked Mr. Jon Barganier with Manufacture Alabama to speak about the collaboration. Mr. Barganier stated he was excited about the opportunity to partner with AADC.

Presentation by Dr. Kimberly Robinson, CEO/Executive Director of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center – Ms. Robinson spoke about the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's proposal titled "Connector Building-Workforce Development Initiative." This new building will not only enhance the guest experience but will also act as a bridge to Alabama's workforce. It will be situated between the Davidson Center for Space Exploration and the historic museum building. The funding for this project, along with many other initiatives at the Space Center, comes from state, federal, donor, and local government sources. Over $47 million has been raised to support capital needs.

Ms. Robinson also addressed the pressing workforce needs, highlighting the shortage of skilled workers required to sustain the economy. She pointed out that the industry is facing a deficit of 800,000 skilled workers, and 40 percent of the nation's aerospace workforce is nearing retirement age. Ms. Robinson aims to inspire young people to join the STEM workforce and pursue new opportunities.

Presentation by Mr. Dan Caughran with United Launch Alliance Overview- Mr. Caughran is the Vice President of Production Operations and Supply Chain for United Launch Alliance (ULA). The ULA headquarters is located in Denver, Colorado, and the Decatur, Alabama production site employs over 800 individuals, including employees and contractors. Mr. Caughran detailed the various stages involved in missile construction and discussed the different rockets that have been built, including the Delta II, Delta IV, Atlas V, and Vulcan. Over the years, ULA's production rate has increased, and the plan for the next year is to build 16 Vulcan rockets.

Old Business: None

New Business: Space Command Resolution

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, State House, Montgomery, AL

Adjourn: With no other business, Chairman Givhan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Boswell motioned. Mr. Crosby seconded the motion. Chairman Givhan adjourned the meeting at 2:30 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer B. Lee
Jennifer B. Lee, Recording Secretary Date

Minutes approved by: 2/25/25
Dr. Kimberly Robinson, Vice Chairman Date