

Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan

Downtown Development Authority

Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

9:00 am – Newnan City Hall

25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room

Members Present: Ashley Beck, Valerie Dumas, Roger Miles, Martha Ann Parks, Casey Smith, & Jim Thomasson

Members Absent: Graylin Ward

Staff Present: Abigail Strickland

Visitors Present: Jeffrey Elsey

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed by the Authority. Jim Thomasson made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes as presented to the Authority. Valerie Dumas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Abigail Strickland presented the Financial Report to the Authority, noting the following account balances:

- i. BOZ primary: \$7,616.24
- ii. MMI: \$85,058.79
- iii. YTD Income: \$5,017.11
- iv. YTD Expense: \$11,564.94
 1. Net Income: -\$6547.83

Abigail Strickland presented the financial report, noting that the majority of year-to-date expenses have been related to software renewals and training events, including a \$2,500 partnership with the SBDC to provide a Digital Marketing class for business owners.

Valerie Dumas asked about attendance at the Love Local event. Abigail reported a 20% increase in foot traffic during the event, based on Placer data, and noted that the inaugural event was successful and is expected to grow in future years. Valerie also inquired about the future of the love lock fence. Abigail stated she has been working with Leisure Services to identify a potential downtown park location where the installation can remain active.

Abigail Strickland provided an update on the 57 East project. Based on the current schedule, the DDA will need to hold a special called meeting on March 24 prior to the City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. During this meeting, the DDA will be asked to adopt two bond resolutions: one for the project financing and one for the incentive. Once the resolutions are approved by both the DDA and City Council, RFPs and validation notices will be published. Bond validation is currently expected to take place on April 21. Following validation, the DDA will need to meet again on April 28 to adopt a supplemental City Resolution ahead of the City Council meeting that evening. At this time, the anticipated closing date is May 7. Jim Thomasson requested that if any

documents are going to be considered that they Authority have ample time to review, ideally one week.

Abigail Strickland reminded the Authority of upcoming training opportunities, including a Digital Marketing and AI class hosted by the Small Business Development Center at the UWG Newnan campus on March 20, offered in response to business requests. She also noted a regional meetup scheduled for May 5 in Hogansville that will meet training requirements.

Abigail Strickland informed the Authority that the RFQ for professional services for the Pedestrian Safety, Connectivity, and Multimodal Mobility Study is currently open, with submissions due by 10:00 a.m. on April 3, 2026.

Jim Thomasson presented an example of a digital kiosk he observed in Atlanta and requested that staff engage with vendors to explore pricing for a similar product.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28am.

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
9:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room**