

Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan
Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, April 8th, 2026
9:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room

Members Present: Valerie Dumas, Roger Miles, Casey Smith, Jim Thomasson, & Graylin Ward

Members Absent: Ashley Beck & Martha Ann Parks

Staff Present: Abigail Strickland, Hasco Craver

The meeting was called to order at 8:59am.

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed by the Authority. Jim Thomasson made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes as presented to the Authority. Graylin Ward seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

- i. BOZ primary: \$3,832.67
- ii. MMI: \$85,066.25
- iii. YTD Income: \$7,843.57
- iv. YTD Expense: \$13,168.57
 1. Net Income: -\$5324.57

Abigail Strickland presented the financial report, noting that changes to the Market Day vendor structure have shifted revenue collection from an annual upfront model to a monthly basis. She added that significant income is expected to begin in May when Summer Wined Up tickets go on sale.

Hasco Craver provided an update on the 57 East Broad Project, noting that the City continues to work with both CDI and Red Hills. He explained that the City's agreement with the developers requires specific benchmarks to be met in sequence, and all parties are collaborating to move the project forward.

Abigail Strickland provided an update on the partnership with UWG for the QR Code Building History Tour. She noted that during last year's budgeting process, the Authority approved a \$5,000 stipend for a graduate student to assist with expanding the number of plaques throughout the district. Abigail shared that after meeting with Mark Janzen, UWG has temporarily removed the tuition waiver for all projects. At this time, the program is anticipated to move forward by hosting a student during the fall semester regardless of the waiver.

During the previous meeting, Jim Thomasson requested that staff explore companies that provide digital kiosks. Abigail Strickland reported that she contacted several vendors, with one quote

totaling approximately \$40,000. She also noted that additional research revealed some companies offer kiosks to cities at no upfront cost, recouping expenses through advertising.

Abigail Strickland informed the Authority that seven qualifications were received for the Downtown Pedestrian Safety, Walkability, and Multimodal Transportation Study, submitted by Pond, TSW, GMC, NV5, Kimley-Horn, Foresite, and Keck & Wood. She reminded the Authority that the firm selection is scheduled for May 12. The Authority agreed to invite three firms—TSW, GMC, and Kimley-Horn—for interviews. Casey, Jim, and Valerie volunteered to participate in the interview sessions at the end of the month.

Casey Smith noted that during the most recent City Council meeting, a request to close streets for a private event scheduled during a Main Street event was included on the agenda. He explained that this raised broader concerns about downtown Newnan serving as the primary venue for numerous events, resulting in frequent street closures that are beginning to negatively impact businesses. Hasco Craver added that there is growing confusion within the community regarding event ownership, as events held downtown are often assumed to be hosted by Main Street. He noted that this misperception can diminish the Main Street brand, as not all events adhere to the same standards and qualifications. He also shared that City resources, including Police, Fire, and Public Works, are experiencing strain due to the volume of events. It was suggested that staff draft a letter to City Council outlining these concerns. Jim Thomasson recommended that the letter also include potential solutions, such as utilizing parking lots and parks as alternative event locations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48m.

**Next Meeting:
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