

Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan
Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, June 10th, 2026
9:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room

Members Present: Ashley Beck, Valerie Dumas, Casey Smith, Jim Thomasson, & Graylin Ward

Members Absent: Roger Miles, Ryan Brooks

Staff Present: Abigail Strickland, Hasco Craver

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am.

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed by the Authority. Casey Smith noted there should be an amendment to the previous minutes, noting that Ashley Beck and Ryan Brooks recused themselves from the meeting before executive session. Jim Thomasson made a motion to accept the April meeting minutes with amendment. 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: \$5,384.27
- ii. MMI: \$85,080.00
- iii. YTD Income: \$19,751.41
- iv. YTD Expense: \$21,618.71
 - 1. Net Income: -\$1867.30

Abigail Strickland notified the Authority that Jesse Branch was removed as a signor from the BOZ Primary account.

Abigail Strickland presented a proposed process for non-DDA downtown events, including an application process, staff review, fee structure, annual event calendar, and City Council approval for larger events. Valerie Dumas inquired about the proposed fee structure and whether fees would apply to all events, including smaller events that do not require street closures. Abigail Strickland explained that the process is a recommendation only and would ultimately be considered by City Council and administered by City staff, who would make final determinations regarding implementation and fees. Following discussion, the Authority recommended presenting the proposed process to City Council at its July meeting.

Ashley Beck recused herself from the meeting due to a conflict of interest with the 57 E. Broad project.

Casey Smith asked the Authority if all members had received and reviewed the amended documents and whether there were any questions for legal counsel. Casey Smith noted that the

City initiated the project and asked the DDA to implement it, and that the proposed amendments did not change the overall deal structure or financial terms. Jim Thomasson encouraged the Authority to allow Red Hills Hospitality and CDI to resolve their issues directly. He noted that certain provisions and performance triggers were originally included to protect the public interest and expressed concern about the future use of the hotel site if the project did not proceed as planned. Brad Sears explained that while the project involved agreements among the DDA/City, CDI, and Red Hills Hospitality, the proposed amendments would separate certain obligations between CDI and Red Hills Hospitality. Graylin Ward inquired whether mediation had been considered. Brad Sears responded that the parties were currently working through the issues within the framework of the separate but interconnected agreements.

Casey Smith made a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the amended documents. Valerie Dumas seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1, with Jim Thomasson voting in opposition.

Valerie Dumas recused herself from the meeting due to conflict for Façade Grant. Ashley Beck reentered the meeting.

Abigail Strickland presented a Façade Grant application submitted by Valerie Dumas on behalf of Gillyweeds. Abigail Strickland reminded the Authority that the application was being considered by the full board because the requested grant amount of \$1,000 exceeds the annual benefit limit of Authority members. She noted that, if approved, staff would publish the required public notice. The application proposed the replacement of the business front door with a nearly identical door due to deterioration and weather-related issues affecting the property. Jim Thomasson made a motion to award the Façade Grant to Gillyweeds. Ashley Beck seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.

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