

Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan Downtown Development Authority

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020
8:00 am – Zoom Meeting**

Members Present: Ray Dubose, Keith Brady, Casey Smith, Martha Ann Parks

Staff Present: Courtney Harcourt, Abigail Strickland, Hasco Craver

Visitors Present: Laurel Huster

The meeting was called to order at 8:01am.

Ray DuBose noted that the financial report and approval of previous meeting minutes would take place at the next Authority in-person meeting on June 17, 2020 at 8am in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Courtney Harcourt announced that Abigail Strickland had prepared and submitted a new grant application to AARP for the 2020 Community Challenge Grant. The grant requested \$20,000 to begin other projects within the Placemaking Master Plan such as district marketing, pop ups, and open streets. The funds would allow Team Better Block to visit and implement the project.

Courtney Harcourt noted that the City of Newnan has placed new banners throughout the downtown district that honor the three public high school graduates. A small ceremony with a few students, Mayor Keith Brady, and staff was held on Monday, May 18th, 2020.

Abigail Strickland provided an update regarding upcoming events. Abigail Strickland noted recommendations from the Center of Disease Control (CDC), Governor Kemp's Executive Order, and Georgia Main Street's regarding mass gatherings. The CDC recommended cancelling all events that have over 250 in attendance. The State Executive Order prohibits gatherings with group of 10 or more unless six-foot distance between each person is available. Georgia Main Street and the Department of Community Affairs recommended that large mass gatherings should be cancelled until August. The upcoming events that would need to be considered to be cancelled or postponed would include Summer Wined Up, 4th of July Parade, Market Day for July, the weekly Farmer's Market, and Summer NewnaNights.

The Summer Wined Up event hosts 500 ticket holder and many other visitors who enjoy the atmosphere of Downtown Newnan. Abigail Strickland noted that many of the downtown business owners have expressed postponing the event to a later date due to the current financial strain. Casey Smith noted that as a business owner in downtown the night of the Summer Wined Up is extremely busy and with the current restrictions in place he would not be able to accommodate the crowd.

The Farmer's Market on Wednesdays does not attract a large crowd. Abigail Strickland noted that the Coweta County Extension Office has agreed to host the Wednesday market at the Asa Powell Expo Center until allowed to return to the Courthouse Square. Keith Brady stated that we

should move the Farmer's Market back to the Courthouse Square as soon as possible after the City of Newnan's restriction on not hosting events until after June 15th, 2020 ends, which would be on June 17th, 2020.

Abigail Strickland informed the Authority the band director at Newnan High School confirmed that the band would not be able to participate in the 4th of July Parade. Abigail Strickland noted that the parade would fall on a Saturday this year in conjunction with the July Market Day. The crowd that the parade would attract due to these factors along with the postponement of the Peachtree Road Race would be larger than year's past. Ray DuBose informed the Authority that the Newnan Rotary Club had also made the decision to cancel the fireworks event held at Newnan High School.

The Summer NewnaNights is held at Greenville Street Park and host live music and food trucks. Abigail Strickland noted that attendance is approximately 500-750 people. Courtney Harcourt stated that downtown business owners have mentioned that this event does not bring business to their shops and restaurants. Courtney Harcourt recommended the Authority consider the first event that Main Street Newnan hosts to focus on stimulating the downtown businesses.

Casey Smith made a motion to postpone the Summer Wined Up and cancel the 4th of July Parade, July Market Day, and July Summer NewnaNights. Keith Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Courtney Harcourt informed the Authority of a couple ideas that could stimulate downtown activity without hosting a large event. The "Block Party" idea could be hosted on a Thursday or Friday night and open the open container district, close the streets and allow for business owners to have more space to operate. Take Out Tuesdays would be a lunch hour event where bistro seating would be made available to residents/visitors. Lastly, hosting a Concert in the Park in August. Keith Brady ask staff to propose the ability to close streets and open the open container district at staff's discretion to City Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31am.

**Next Meeting:
June 17, 2020
8:00am
Council Chambers at City Hall**