

Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan
Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
8:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room

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

Members Absent: Brant Frost, Graylin Ward

Staff Present: Abigail Strickland, Hasco Craver

Visitors Present: Laura Camper

The meeting was called to order at 7:59am.

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed by the Authority. Keith Brady made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting as presented to the Authority. Ray DuBose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

- i. BOZ primary: \$20,365.28
- ii. MMI: \$81,432.87
- iii. YTD Income: \$13,638.90
- iv. YTD Expense: \$15,801.72
 - 1. Net Income: -2162.82

Abigail Strickland requested the Authority to consider adding staff, Jesse Branch, as a signor on the Primary accounts so that Jesse is able to cut checks while Abigail is on maternity leave beginning in August. Keith Brady made a motion to add Jesse Branch as a signor on the primary checking account. Martha Ann Parks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Abigail Strickland updated the Authority on the Wadsworth Alley project. Staff met with most of the property owners in the alleyway and all owners have interest in the area being nice/clean space for visitors to enjoy. Abigail Strickland asked the Authority to consider hiring an engineering company to receive the scope of work necessary and preliminary costs. Keith Brady stated hiring an engineering company to repair water erosion issues is critical but believed it should be a function of the City of Newnan, not the Downtown Development Authority.

Abigail Strickland updated the Authority on the Carnegie-Thompson Alleyway project. Abigail noted the light art boxes are on order and ArtRez will be a partner but does not want sole responsibility of the rotating art display and requested we leave it open to other local art organizations such as Newnan-Coweta Art Association, University of West Georgia School of the Arts, the local high schools, etc.

Abigail Strickland noted the Main Street Newnan program received both the National Main Street Accreditation and Georgia Main Street's Georgia Exceptional Main Street status for 2023. The 2022 Community Impact report is included in the agenda packet in which Downtown Newnan had \$10.5 Million in public/private investment.

Jim Thomasson provided an update on the upcoming Rock & Road Festival. Jim noted that there are currently 502 preregistered bikers for the Tour of Coweta. All participants of the Tour will receive a meal voucher for participating downtown restaurants. Jim also noted other activities that will take place throughout the day such as the Soapbox Derby, car show, criterium race, live music and trail ride at Brown's Mill.

Abigail Strickland informed the Authority about the City of Newnan's new Civic Clerk system. The system will allow all agenda items to be view online before and during the meetings. Abigail requested Authority members to send any updates to member emails as soon as possible.

Abigail Strickland noted Restaurant Week will begin on Sunday April 16th- Saturday April 22nd. This new event allows patrons to view specials and hours for participating restaurants. Patrons will be able to upload receipts to the portal and be entered to win \$200 in local gift cards.

Lastly, Abigail updated the Authority about their recommendation to City Council regarding the Downtown Sanitation Program. City Council approved their recommendation and will begin adjusting the sanitation rates based on the Consumer Price Index in March of 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17am.

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
8:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room**