

AGENDA

City of Newnan
Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
8:00 am – 2nd Floor Conference Room,
Newnan City Hall, 25 LaGrange Street

Members Present: Casey Smith, Ray DuBose, Graylin Ward, Jim Thomasson, Brant Frost, Keith Brady

Visitors Present: Winston Skinner

Staff Present: Hasco Craver, Courtney Harcourt, Abigail Strickland

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:01am
2. Jim Thomasson made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Ray Dubose seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. Financial Report was received as information, where DDA board members were informed of the following account balances:
 - YTD Income: \$11,801.30
 - YTD Expense: \$13, 881.90
 - BOZ MMI: \$99,949.19
 - BOZ UWG: \$455.66
 - BOZ Primary Checking: Courtney Harcourt informed the Authority that the bank statement was temporarily unavailable due to an issue with online banking. She informed the Authority that she would resolve the issue this afternoon and upload an updated statement to the Dropbox as soon as it was available.
4. Downtown Development Authority project updates were reviewed and received as information.

The following updates were provided about the Wadsworth Alleyway project. The Authority was informed that all effected property owners and business owners had been informed and supported the project. The Authority was informed that both an Alleyway clean-up and a gardening day had taken place. The Authority was informed that staff had met with several partners for the project to include: Utilities (sewer, utilities, and mulch), Public Works (new sidewalk), the City Attorney, and Backstreet Arts to outline an Art Installation plan. Staff informed the Authority that some of the art installation would be on moveable surfaces so that it could be changed periodically. The Authority was informed that the City Attorney had recommended that improvements to private property be issued in the form of a program that is similar to the Main Street Newnan Façade Grant Program, and that volunteer beautification efforts be organized in a structure similar to Keep Newnan Beautiful- Newnan Youth Council Alleyway Cleanups.

Courtney Harcourt noted that they staff would be working to complete guidelines for this program, and that they would present the guidelines in the near future.

The Authority was informed that the task of installing the Pet Waste Stations was delayed because GDOT challenged the original locations that were selected. Courtney Harcourt noted that staff had met with Public Works this week to determine 4 similar locations that were within the GDOT's guidelines. They should be installed in the very near future.

The Authority was informed that the Spring 2018 Banners had arrived, and that they were being installed as the meeting was taking place. Courtney Harcourt noted that the "Share with Care" double bracket banners required additional time to install, as staff is working with Newnan Utilities to install additional brackets.

The Authority was provided with a final "Share with Care" magnet and informed that the SHARE WITH CARE campaign is ready for launch.

The Authority received an update about the proposed crosswalk that the DDA recommended for GDOT to consider adding to the intersection off of Jackson Street at (Temple Avenue Park/ Veteran's Memorial Park). The Authority was informed that Newnan City Council is reconsidering the construction of the crosswalk as proposed. A resident that lives in front of the proposed crosswalk challenged the idea, and Newnan City Council is working with staff to modify the plan as it was originally proposed.

5. Courtney Harcourt mentioned that the 2018 Work Plan review had been scheduled to take place on 6/20/2018 from 8:30- 1:30 at Newnan City Hall in conference room. Harcourt suggested to the authority to consider moving the meeting to the University Of West Georgia (UWG)'s Newnan Campus if their facility was open to the idea. The Authority directed staff to inquire about hosting the meeting at UWG Newnan.

Courtney Harcourt informed the Authority that the 2018 MOU had been sent to Main Street Newnan by Georgia Main Street, and noted that the Main Street Newnan Program would officially receive its classification as a GEMS program upon signing and returning the document. Board Chairman Casey Smith, and Mayor Keith Brandy signed the document to be returned to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs on behalf of Georgia Main Street.

Staff asked that the Authority to consider asking Newnan City Council to close Madison St between Jackson and Jefferson street during the Tucked Away Music Day. The street could be closed for a very small vendor area to be placed next to the stage at Wadsworth Alley. Staff noted that they felt that this would not take away from the event, because it would confine vendors in a "tucked away" location. Staff explained that it is common for music festivals to have a small vendor area, and if the Authority was open to the idea, staff would like to ask the following to attend: a Tie Die Vendor, a vendor selling boiled peanuts, a shaved ice vendor, a kettle-corn vendor, and a face painter. Ray DuBose made a motion to close Madison between Jackson and Jefferson during the Tucked Away Music Day. Jim Thomasson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Courtney Harcourt noted that staff had created a “Brag Blog” at Mainstreetnewnan.com to provide program updates. Harcourt also noted that staff also included an “Alleyway Spotlight” to note efforts toward this development.

The Authority was updated about the THIS PLACE MATTERS Place Making project, where they were asked to share the information as an opportunity for the community to make and share history! Harcourt informed the Authority that they would simply need a cell phone and a memory that took place in Downtown Newnan to participate. She also informed the Authority that This Place Matters is a national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities— noting that This Place Matters was founded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and has trickled into communities across the United States, including Newnan, Georgia! Brant Frost noted that he loved the idea, and thought it may be a better option than the Newnan Times Herald or the Coweta Shopper work to promote the campaign and gather information, as many members of the community do not use the Main Street Newnan website or social media outlets. Casey Smith suggested that if the media is interested, that they may direct the community to the website to use Main Street’s form for the event. Winston Skinner offered to present his idea to his coworkers.

Abigail Strickland provided an update on Spring Art Walk and April Market Day. Spring Art Walk was a success; the local high schools created chalk art on the City sidewalks and engaged the artists. Casey Smith stated his artist at the event was from Atlanta and stated that this was the best Art Festival he had attended. April Market Day was a successful day for the vendors who attended, many vendors cancelled due to weather forecast. Ray Dubose commented that there were multiple new vendors in attendance.

Abigail Strickland shared that Taste of Newnan is tomorrow, and that everything is in place and ready for the event. Tucked Away Music Festival is currently being planned, and offers to bands have been made, still awaiting confirmation from the bands.

Keith Brady asked to share information with the Authority before closing the meeting. Speaking on behalf of our elected officials and City staff, Mayor Brady wanted to ensure that the Authority was aware of the National Socialist Movement Rally that was scheduled to take place at Greenville Street Park on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Mayor Brady informed the board that the City of Newnan’s neutral position, reinforcing the fact the City is not in support of the cause that the NSM supports, nor the counter protestors cause. He noted that the group was not local to Newnan, nor did officials expect those present to be local. Mayor Brady informed the Authority that officials are strongly suggesting that residents not to attend the event, and for downtown businesses to consider closing during the hours of the event to ensure public safety. Casey Smith noted that his business planned to stay open during the event, but that he had heard that numerous others would remain closed. Members of the Authority raised an interest in making a statement on behalf of the City and Downtown Newnan. Jim Thomasson questioned how such a statement would be structured. Graylin Ward noted that the statement should not be exclusive, or inclusive to the extent that members of the community felt as if there

rights to attend were being compromised. The Authority was in agreement that they would like to make a formal motion to support the City's statement on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority of Newnan. Jim Thomasson made a motion to accept and promote the City of Newnan's official statement on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority. Brant Frost seconded the motion. The motion carried.

"The City of Newnan received a Pavilion Rental Agreement from the National Socialist Movement on March 5, 2018. Upon review for adherence to stated policies, the City of Newnan executed the Agreement on March 15, 2018. As stated in the agreement, the National Socialist Movement will be hosting a political rally between 3:00pm and 5:00pm in Greenville Street Park on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The agreement states that the event will likely include 50 – 100 people.

The City of Newnan, in consultation with numerous local, state and federal agencies, has developed a public safety plan that is designed to ensure the safety of our citizenry as well as the preservation of public and private property. The City of Newnan is aware of recent activities in our country that include the actions of similar protests and counter protests. The City of Newnan has a responsibility to protect free speech rights, the individuals and groups that chose to exercise those rights and the broader community in which those rights may be exercised. The City of Newnan is taking very seriously multiple concerns regarding the safety of all persons and property. In order to meet that obligation, the City of Newnan has been preparing a robust public safety plan. The City of Newnan is committed to ensuring public safety and will utilize the resources needed to execute the public safety plan.

Numerous traffic detours and road closures will be in place on Saturday, April 21, 2018. In addition, a number of local, state and federal agencies will join the City of Newnan's public safety personnel on Saturday, April 21, 2018 to provide for the successful management of the aforementioned event. At this time, the City of Newnan feels it is appropriate to close portions of Greenville Street, LaGrange Street and Salbide Avenue nearby, adjacent to and surrounding Greenville Street Park. Additional street closures may occur and may be announced at a later date. The City of Newnan recognizes the inconvenience the temporary street closures may create for residents and business alike; however, the City of Newnan feels it appropriate to promote public safety."

Courtney Harcourt noted that a group of independent business owners had asked Council's permission to host a "Newnan Strong" event on the evening of Friday, April 20, 2017. The event is scheduled to take place after normal business hours, where downtown retailers are planning to make a statement to celebrate unity and welcome commerce in response to the business that they plan to lose by closing early during the NSM rallies. Jim Thomasson questioned their official statement for the event that he received via email because it noted that all business would be closed on 4/21/18. He was confused as Casey Smith and a handful of other businesses had stated that they planned to be opened. Harcourt noted that the Main Street Program had agreed to share the date on their behalf, but that the program had not sent a press release to our listserv. She noted that the program was not the event organizer, and that we had not submitted any information making such statement.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44am