

MEETING MINUTES

**City of Newnan
Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
8:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room**

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

Members Absent: Jim Thomasson, Graylin Ward

Staff Present: Abigail Strickland, Hasco Craver

Visitors Present: Laurel Huster

The meeting was called to order at 8:03am.

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. Martha Ann Parks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

- a. BOZ Primary: \$13,501.03**
- b. BOZ MMI: \$108,732.97**
- c. YTD Income: \$1220.90**
- d. YTD Expense: \$797.72**
 - Net Income: \$423.18**

Abigail Strickland noted a \$5000 transfer from BOZ MMI to the BOZ Primary previously approved during the September 2020 meeting to avoid dormancy fees and to increase amount in primary took place on January 20, 2021.

Abigail Strickland announced Main Street Newnan was re-designated a GEMS Community. GEMs stands for Georgia Exceptional Main Street and these programs represent some of the best of the best Main Street Programs that the state has to offer. These Main Street Programs have gone above and beyond expectations by making a strong and positive impact in their communities as measured by the Monthly Reporting and the Annual Assessment Process. GEMS level communities are entitled to special one on one technical services offered through the Office of Downtown Development as well as discounted training opportunities.

The Placemaking Collaborative had Team Leader Orientation on 1/14. Danny Bivins from UGA Carl Vinson Institute will be the facilitator for Newnan. The Team Orientation is scheduled from 2/16. Hasco reiterated that Danny Bivins' team had previously assisted the City of Newnan and noted that he is familiar with Newnan.

Ray DuBose encouraged the Authority to starting thinking about development opportunities within the district. Ray DuBose mentioned the Caldwell Tanks project will be coming up soon and it will affect the properties that surround it and effect the downtown as a whole. Ray DuBose stated his wish was to ensure the downtown square and the Caldwell Tanks project have connectivity. Ray DuBose informed the Authority that City Council voted on the Master Planner, Nelson, for the project at the City Council meeting held yesterday. Keith Brady recommended that Nelson come before the Authority to provide an update and receive feedback. Casey Smith stated that the Caldwell Tanks project will be a “game changer” for downtown. Casey Smith stated that the Authority has \$100,000 in the bank and questioned how the Authority can use those funds to help downtown flourish. Keith Brady reiterated that the original intent of the Authority is to provide incentives and facilitate the private sector to encourage development downtown.

Abigail Strickland provided the Manager’s Report. Abigail Strickland recommended the Authority consider hosting the Market Day event with decreased vendors and with the closure of North & South Court Square to allow room for social distancing. Abigail Strickland also recommended the Authority consider hosting the Spring Art Walk on March 26th, with the same requirements of the Fall Art Walk held in September of 2020. Lastly, it was recommended the Authority consider pushing off the Taste of Newnan off for now and revisit the event in Fall if there is a decrease in COVID-19 cases.

Abigail Strickland announced the Annual Meeting will be held on February 26th at the Wadsworth Auditorium with an option to take breakfast to-go. The meeting will review 2020 and look ahead into plans for 2021.

Abigail Strickland provided an update regarding the open Special Event Coordinator position. There was close to 100 applicants, we have begun interviews and have a couple great candidates to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21am.

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
8:00 am – Newnan City Hall
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