

MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Present: Ray Dubose, Brant Frost, Martha Ann Parks, Jim Thomasson

Members Absent: Casey Smith, Graylin Ward

Staff Present: Abigail Strickland, Jesse Branch, Hasco Craver

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

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

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

- a. BOZ Primary: \$21,495.37**
- b. BOZ MMI: \$76,420.30**
- c. YTD Income: \$8.27**
- d. YTD Expense: \$2,452.05**
 - Net Income: -\$2,443.78**

Abigail Strickland noted that we will be receiving the income from the Annual and Monthly Market Day checks in the coming weeks.

Abigail Strickland presented the estimated square footage of the Central Business District to the Authority in regards to the downtown sanitation program. The Central Business District includes 59.034473 acres which is roughly 2.5 million square feet. Hasco Craver noted that the City Council is looking for a recommendation from the Authority regarding whether the program should be maintained as it is, whether it should pay for itself, or whether it should be subsidized somewhere along the spectrum. Martha Ann Parks noted that the program should be supplemented as to not penalize the downtown business owners. Brant Frost noted that measuring the sales tax revenue of the businesses may help determine who is generating the most trash. Hasco Craver noted that the downtown sanitation program could be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for those services that can be increased over time with a ceiling. Keith Brady noted that he was in favor of using the CPI to help determine annual increases for the program. Jim Thomasson asked staff to research CPI index and tabled the conversation until the next meeting.

Abigail Strickland updated the Authority on the Wadsworth Alley. There have been a few complaints regarding the alley's state, especially in regards to storm water and erosion. Abigail

met with Engineering staff to determine a solution to see if there could be a permanent fix to the issues. Abigail asked the Authority if they would be interested in continuing the alleyway project, or if they want to abandon the project. Brant Frost noted that he was in favor of abandoning the alleyway due to the man hours it takes to maintain. Keith Brady noted that he was in favor of continuing to maintain the alleyway as it is just as much a part of downtown as the sidewalks are. Ray Dubose, Jim Thomasson, and Martha Ann Parks agreed. Abigail will work with staff to come up with a permanent solution to the current issues.

Abigail Strickland updated the Authority on the Carnegie-Thompson Alley. Paving within the alleyway will begin in 2-3 weeks. We are looking to partner with ArtRez for a rotating art display within the alleyway that would include the installation of light boxes that would allow for the display of temporary art.

Abigail Strickland noted that there will be a session regarding the 57 East Broad project at a special called City Council meeting on February 22nd at 5:30pm. This is a work session meeting and will not be open for public comment, though the public is invited to attend.

Abigail Strickland updated the Authority on an event happening in the district in the coming months. The Rock & Road Festival will be occurring on April 15th this year, which will include expansive, lengthy road closures and large crowds.

Jesse Branch updated the Authority on upcoming events. The first Market Day of the year is coming up on March 4th. This will be the first time the Market Day has started in March, and the vendors and the public are excited for this addition. Jesse noted that Main Street staff is considering purchasing app software for the Downtown Newnan Restaurant Week that would allow for participants to view the participating restaurants and their associated specials/offerings and also allow for participants to upload their receipts in order to enter the giveaway that will be occurring as part of the event. Keith Brady asked if the City already has some type of app that Main Street could utilize for this event, and tasked Main Street staff to ask other City staff if there is something already that could be used. Keith noted that an app could be a great product for the City that could be used comprehensively to include all Main Street, Leisure Services, Newnan Centre, and Newnan Carnegie events. Brant Frost made a motion to approve the purchase of the app software. Keith Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40am.

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