Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan
Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, July 10, 2024
8:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room

Members Present: Keith Brady, Valerie Dumas, Ashley Keeley, Martha Ann Parks, Casey Smith, Graylin Ward
Members Absent: Brant Frost
Staff Present: Abigail Strickland, Jesse Branch

The meeting was called to order at 8:02am.

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. Valerie Dumas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

i. BOZ primary: $15,729.26
ii. MMI: $86,536.77
iii. YTD Income: $31,113.76
iv. YTD Expense: $33,120.07
    1. Net Income: -$2,000.31

Abigail Strickland noted that this report does not include roughly half of the Summer Wined-Up ticket sales, which would be an additional income of around $8,000.

Abigail Strickland and Jesse Branch provided updates on work plan goals. Abigail noted that the summer intern is continuing her work on the Building History Tour, and has secured 16 locations so far. She has finalized Redneck Gourmet's entry, which can be viewed at his business listing on the Main Street website or by scanning the QR code on the outside of his building. We are partnering with the Newnan-Coweta History Center to complete the project, and they have been a great help so far. Jesse Branch noted that she has finalized the inventory of needs for Volunteer Support, and has made progress on building out the volunteer program as a whole. Jesse will be finalizing the budgetary needs with Abigail as well as determining whether the program should be rolled out in a "trial" phase this fall, or if it should be launched fully at the beginning of 2025. Lastly, Abigail noted that Historical Concepts will be presenting their initial concepts for Andrew Street and 57 East at the City Council Work Session next Tuesday, July 16th at 5:30pm, and the Authority is welcome to attend. This will include a recap from the recent public engagement session. Ashley Keeley provided updates to the branding for the Railroad District. Abigail noted that this branding would need to go to City Council for approval. The Authority agreed on a singular logo design, and Ashley noted that she will provide an updated design sheet

of the selected logo with different variations of signage and colors that can be added to the next available City Council Agenda.

Abigail Strickland updated the Authority on the Wadsworth Alley development. The alleyway is currently under construction and should be completed soon. The updates should hopefully provide a more permanent fix that takes less manpower to maintain. This project will include the striping of the parking space that is directly in front of the alley.

Abigail Strickland announced that Martha Ann Parks has recently completed a Façade Grant Application. Martha Ann Parks then recused herself and left the room. Martha Ann is looking for a 50% match reimbursement – up to $1,000 – after recently replacing the awning at 16 Greenville Street. Casey Smith motioned to accept the application and fund the reimbursement. Keith Brady seconded. The motion carried.

Jesse Branch updated the authority on events. The annual 4th of July Parade was held last Thursday and was very successful. It had the greatest number of parade entries since Jesse's tenure began in 2021. Jesse also noted that the second Summer NewnaNights of the summer will be tomorrow, July 11th in Greenville Street Park from 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Abigail Strickland announced she has some updates she would like to share with the authority regarding downtown real estate but encouraged the authority to consider entering executive session.

Motion by Keith Brady, seconded by Graylin Ward that we now enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing real estate and that we move, in open session to adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor or presiding officer to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4, and that this body ratify the actions of the Authority taken in closed session and confirm that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the open meetings law.

Motion by Keith Brady, seconded by Graylin Ward to authorize the Chairman Casey Smith to execute the affidavit stating that the subject matter of the closed portion of the Authority was within the exceptions provided by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4(b).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34am.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, August 14, 2024
8:00 am – Newnan City Hall
25 Lagrange Street- Council Chamber Room