



## Meeting Minutes

**February 17th at 2:00pm**

An in-person meeting of The Downtown Development Authority was held on Thursday February 17th, 2022 at 2:00pm in The City-County Meeting Room of The Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. In attendance were board members: Catherine Baity, Angie McGill, Doug Head, Darren Day, and Elizabeth Huckaby. Board Members Ashley Caudill and Lane Coggins had excused absences. The board welcomed new member Elizabeth Huckaby, who filled the vacant seat of former DDA member, Mrs. Jan Knight.

Mrs. McGill motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 14th, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Head. All votes were in favor of approving the meeting minutes. Mr. Head motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Day and carried unanimously.

The first item up for discussion was a Facade Grant Reimbursement for 103 W. Gordon Street in the amount of \$2,500.00. This amount is \$836.31 less than the amount approved for the Facade Grant. Reimbursement receipts have not been provided to the city via McLeroy Inc. However, Economic Development Coordinator, Taylor Smith advised the reimbursement request be approved contingent upon McLeroy providing proof of receipts to Superior Construction Services, LLC. Mr. Head motioned to approve the Facade Grant Reimbursement with the proposed contingencies, which was seconded by Mrs. McGill and carried unanimously.

The next item up for discussion was a Facade Grant Reimbursement for 106/108 W. Main Street in the amount of \$5,000.00. All receipts have been provided by RM Properties & Restorations, LLC. Total Facade Improvement costs amounted to \$14,110. Mr. Head motioned to approve the Facade Grant Reimbursement, which was seconded by Mrs. Baity and carried unanimously.

The next item up for discussion was a Facade Grant Application for 208 S. Center Street (Fun 101 FM) from Mr. Dave Piper, in the amount of \$1,085.88 to pressure wash, and install new signage on the building exterior. Mr. Piper previously applied for the Facade Grant several months ago, which was tabled. The commission asked Mr. Piper to provide a quote for pressure washing the building, as well as meet with Mr. Smith to discuss back of alley projects. Having done as requested, Mrs. Baity motioned to approve the Facade Grant Application contingent that Mr. Piper exercise his best effort to cooperate with the DDA in the development of the back of alley space contiguous to the DDA Parking Lot. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McGill and carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of the DDA Parking lot. Mr. Smith informed the board that he had met with Miss Anna Jordan, a local student of UGA's Landscape Architecture student to discuss concepts for the DDA Parking Lot. Mr. Smith informed the board that the 210 S. Center St. (Health Spa) is currently under contract. The potential owners are proposing 2nd story residential and 3 leasable spaces on the bottom floor. Quotes had also been received for the repaving/seal coating of the lot. City Manager, Russell Thompson has suggested that there could be asphalt left from the current city paving project to pave the lot. There was discussion of the deteriorating trellis wall, proposed dumpster enclosure, grease traps, and the satellites behind Fun 101. Mr. Smith reiterated that once the concepts have been completed, a meeting with the business/property owners would be had to gather input.

Mr. Smith provided information regarding the upcoming "Thomaston Art & Soul Festival" that is scheduled for April 22nd - April 24th. As proposed, the event will consist of a Downtown Art Walk with a Sip & Stroll Concept on Friday the 22nd, an Arts & Crafts Vendor Fair with live demonstrations & chalk artist at Greatest Generation Park on Saturday the 23rd, and the reveal of new downtown murals on Sunday the 24th. According to Mr. Smith, applications for vendors and artists can be found online at the City of Thomaston Main Street webpage. Additionally, painted hydrants proposals are being accepted until Friday, February 25th. Mr. Smith asked the board to help get the word out to potential vendors, artist, and attendees. Mrs. Huckaby suggested that she had some contacts in the brewery/winery industry that she could reach out to regarding sip & stroll participation.

In other business, Mr. Smith provided updates on several items. First, Mr. Smith informed the board that council approved an additional \$10k for the Facade Grant Program. Mr. Smith also had all members sign updated DDA commitment letters. Finally, there was discussion of the proposed painted piano in Downtown Thomaston. Mr. Day offered to assist Mr. Smith in looking at the piano and assessing its' condition.

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was made by Mr. Head and seconded by Mrs. McGill. All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator