



Meeting Minutes

MARCH 17th at 2:00pm

An in-person meeting of The Downtown Development Authority was held on Thursday March 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 2:04 pm. In attendance were board members: Angie McGill, Doug Head, Darren Day, Ashley Caudill, Lane Coggins, and Elizabeth Huckaby. Board Member Catherine Baity had an excused absence due to surgery. City Manager Russell Thompson was also in attendance.

Mrs. Coggins motioned to approve the Minutes of the February 17th, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Caudill. All votes were in favor of approving the meeting minutes. Mr. Head motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Caudill and carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was a Facade Grant Application for 101 S. Center Street (Hometown Printers) from Mr. Jared Huckaby. The Facade Grant Application in the amount of \$4,810.00 would include pressure washing building exterior, replacing and painting damaged/rotted exterior wood trim around windows/doors, new signage, and exterior lighting. Mr. Huckaby's plans received approval from HPC during the March meeting. Board Member, Elizabeth Huckaby recused herself from the vote, as she is the spouse of Mr. Huckaby. Following discussion and praise for Mr. Huckaby's investment in Downtown Thomaston, Mr. Head motioned to approve the Facade Grant Application, which was seconded by Mrs. Coggins 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 and she will be providing concepts for the lot on April 9th, with a presentation for the adjacent property owners on April 15th. Mr. Smith also let board members know that the rotting trellis wall had been removed by Public Works, unutilized grease traps had been removed, and he would be meeting with GFL on Friday March 18th to discuss dumpsters. Finally, board members were notified that the adjacent property at 210 S. Center Street was no longer under contract, as the pending sale had fallen through.

The next agenda item was discussion of 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 hosted by Slices Pizzeria 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. Mr. Smith asked the board to help get the word out to potential vendors, artist, and attendees prior to the application deadline of April 1st.

The final item discussed was the Downtown Event Permitting Process. Mr. Smith provided the board with a copy of red-lined changes that are set to be made to this process. Items highlighted were Permit Fees, Time Review, and Pre-Event meeting. Mr. Smith asked the board to consider any additional changes/recommendations and submit to him at their convenience. Additionally, board members were invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting on March 31st to discuss the Alcohol Ordinance, Special Event Permits, and Bar Licenses. This meeting will be held in the City-County Meeting Room at 5pm.

In other business, Mr. Smith provided updates on several items. First, Mr. Smith informed the board that Public Works had hired a full-time Downtown Beautification Technician to manage the maintenance and upkeep of Downtown Thomaston. Finally, the board received a request from Tidal Wave to designate several spots in front of 110 E. Main Street as Delivery Zone. Mr. Scott Blackstock, owner of Tidal Wave, is looking to purchase this location for a product distribution center and 4 residential lofts on the 2nd story. Board members suggested the establishment of a "Distribution Center" in Downtown Thomaston would be counter intuitive to the goal of creating an "Entertainment District". Mr. Thompson informed the board that under the new Zoning Ordinance set to be voted on April 5th, Distribution centers would not be an allowable use in the Downtown (DT) district. Board members asked Mr. Smith to reach out to Tidal Wave to gather further information and potentially meet with Mr. Thompson to discuss.

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was made by Mr. Head and seconded by Mrs. Caudill All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator