



Meeting Minutes

October 20th at 2:00pm

An in-person meeting of The Downtown Development Authority was held on Thursday October 20th, 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 2:03 pm. In attendance were board members: Catherine Baity, Elizabeth Huckaby, Angie McGill, and Ashley Caudill, and Doug Head. Authority members Lane Coggins and Darren Day had Excused Absences due to work. City Manager Russell Thompson was present for the meeting as well.

Mrs. Caudill motioned to approve the Minutes of the September 15th, 2022 Meeting which was seconded by Mrs. Baity. 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 Reimbursement Request for Thomaston Chiropractic in the amount of \$570.00. Mr. Smith informed the board that all work had been completed as presented and Dr. Cotney had provided proof of payment in the form of a check to "To The Max Advertising" in the amount of \$1,140.00. Mrs. McGill motioned to approve the Facade Grant Reimbursement Request for \$570.00, which was seconded by Mr. Head and carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the remaining Main Street Events for 2022. These events include a Downtown Fall Festival on October 21st, Christmas Lane Market on December 3rd, and Christmas Parade on December 17th. Dustin Fordham of 92.5FM the Bear was present during the meeting and discussed an additional event that will take place on 12/17. Callista Clark of Pike County will be performing at the Ritz Theater at 8pm following the Christmas Parade. All proceeds from this event will be given to the local Empty Stocking Fund. Mr. Fordham requested that space be made for the Bear 92.5FM van and Callista Clark bus directly in front of the Ritz for advertising purposes. Board members discussed the idea of potentially closing the Southside of the Square and offering food trucks/hot chocolate/funnel cakes/etc for both parade and concert attendees. Mr. Smith informed board members that he would present several options to them to discuss further in the coming weeks.

The final item up for discussion revolved around City-Owned property that is located within the Downtown Development Authority District. These properties include the DDA Parking Lot and recent property acquired at 209 S. Church St, Grass Lot at the Corner of E. Gordon & S. Hightower St, Old Fire Station on E. Thompson St., and the former municipal building located directly beside the new fire station on N. Church St. Mr. Smith informed board members that these properties would be discussed in further detail at the upcoming Strategic Visioning Session.

In other business Mr. Smith updated the board on multiple items. First, board members were informed that the city would be hosting a Strategic Visioning Session on Monday November 7th from 8-12. This meeting will be facilitated by ECG and provide an opportunity for the DDA, HPC, and City Council to align their visions and goals moving forward into 2023. Second, Mr. Smith shared that the city was awarded \$4,200 from the GA Council for the Arts Vibrant Communities Grant to cover half of the cost for the two remaining RC Cola Mural restorations. Board members were directed to begin thinking about a different time, if needed for 2023 DDA Meetings. Finally, board members were presented images of ribbons that could be hung around the square. These ribbons would run \$20-\$25 depending on size and # of ribbons. Board members questioned the sustainability of these ribbons from wear and tear due to the elements. Additionally, the question was raised on the financial differences for seasonal flags. Mr. Smith informed the board that he would research potential costs and provide an update to the board on the matter.

An Executive Session was not called during this meeting.

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was made by Mrs. Baity and seconded by Mrs. McGill All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator