

Downtown Development Authority of Blakely
MINUTES
Monday, March 25, 2024
5:30 pm
Alexander Building
Chamber-Development Authority Board Room

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Atkins, Beau Clenney, Franklin Ford, Edwin James, Heather Allred, and Brad Clenney.

ABSENT MEMBERS: Jennifer Mulkey (excused - family illness)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Travis Wimbush, Vikki Ford, and Susanne Reynolds.

Dave Atkins, DDA Chairman, called the meeting to order.

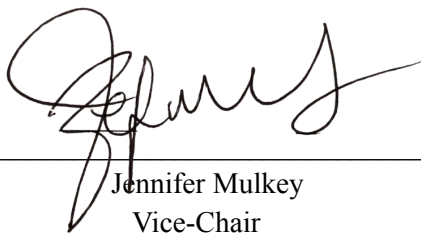
- **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the Feb. 26, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Brad Clenney and seconded by Franklin Ford. All voted in favor.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** A motion to approve the financial report (GCB - \$20,295.93, FSB - \$7,500.00) was made by Franklin Ford and seconded by Beau Clenney. All voted in favor. *Note: OSB account was closed and reopened at GA Community Bank since the OSB merger with Five Star Credit Union does not support public-funded accounts.*
- **OLD BUSINESS:** Ford gave an update on the DDA website. Reynolds will review and send minutes/agendas to BackLight to upload. Website to be highlighted during the next Merchant Meetup event. Reynolds presented recommendations for Food Truck guidelines based on reaching other communities' rules & regulations. The board discussed options moving forward. Edwin James suggested surveying the community on how it views food trucks in Blakely. Ford spoke on using food trucks to bring more people downtown, especially on weekends. It can be used to incentivize people to come to Downtown Blakely. A "food truck park" or designated area was also discussed. This can help regulate the trucks and enforce codes/guidelines. DDA does not want trucks taking away from brick & mortar restaurants. A city-wide ordinance for mobile food trucks is needed. Beau Clenney, Franklin Ford, and Susanne Reynolds will do further research and report back at the next meeting, especially ordinances and guidelines for business license and sales tax. Reynolds can compile City & County-owned parcels for prospective food truck court.
- **NEW BUSINESS:** Reynolds presented a request on behalf of Blakely Hometown/Court Square Development. The DDA was asked if it could take over specific BH duties to help them with funding. Dave Atkins said the DDA needed more info before a discussion

could be made. Ford asked if this request would line up with DDA's mission statement. Until official financials and budget could be presented to DDA, the agenda item was tabled. No action was taken. Reynolds suggested the next Merchant Meetup be after May 6th, the Historic Preservation Commission is working with the City to designate the local historic district. This will be a good subject to present at the next meetup. The Early County News has offered to host a future meetup. Reynolds will speak with ECN after the historic district has been officially designated by the city. Suggested dates were May 13 or 20.

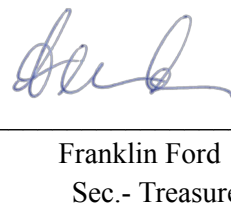
- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Dave Atkins suggested the DDA board have polo shirts with the DDA logo to wear at events. Reynolds offered to start collecting bids for polo shirt prices.
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Reynolds had no new items to discuss for the director's report.
- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Allred had no comments. Atkins suggested a tractor pull and finding a group to manage it.
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Clenney Agency was thanked for contribution towards the DDA stickers. BackLight was thanked for creating and ordering the stickers. Ford mentioned expanding the DDA boundaries. Reynolds suggested waiting until the local historic district was designated and then matching the boundaries together for clarity, "Historic Downtown Blakely." Ford said by expanding the district further down Main Street, it would empower those businesses.

A motion to adjourn was made by Franklin Ford and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Susanne Reynolds, Blakely DDA Executive Director.



Jennifer Mulkey
Vice-Chair



Franklin Ford
Sec.- Treasurer