

Downtown Development Authority of Blakely
MINUTES
Monday, Feb. 26, 2024
5:30 pm
Alexander Building
Chamber-Development Authority Board Room

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

ABSENT MEMBERS: Heather Allred (excused- traveling)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vikki Ford, Celia Bostwick, Susanne Reynolds, and Magnolia Masonic Lodge Representatives

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

- **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the Jan. 22, 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 (OSB - \$5,913.71, FSB - \$7,500.00) was made by Beau Clenney and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** Merchant Meet-Up for March 11th - Cornerstone Insurance has offered to sponsor refreshments. Heather Sharpe, Region 10 DCA Rep. will be presenting Rural Zone Designation information. Franklin Ford gave an update on the Downtown Blakely website. A landing page will be ready by March 11th. A headshot of Heather Allred is still needed, along with drone footage of Downtown.
- **NEW BUSINESS:** Representatives from Magnolia Masonic Lodge were present and asked about funding to assist with the Lodge's facade. Susanne Reynolds, DDA Director, explained the delay with the DDA's Facade Grant Program. The City is amending awning & sign materials ordinance. It will be voted on at the City's March meeting. A facade improvement easement is also being required by the City. As soon as the City approves the amendment, easements, and Certificate of Approval process, the facade grant program can move forward. Chairman Atkins spoke on issues regarding food trucks that have been brought to his attention. He suggested the DDA come up with food truck guidelines to recommend to the City, such as requiring the trucks to obtain a City of Blakely occupational tax/business license, since this affects Downtown businesses/restaurants. Reynolds will compile info on how other communities handle food trucks.

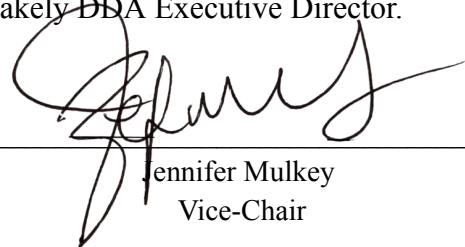
- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Dave Atkins discussed the benefits of the community partnerships coming together for events, fundraising, etc. He will speak with leadership of organizations associated with Downtown Blakely.
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Reynolds again explained the process that must take place before the Facade Grant Program can move forward. Encouraged DDA Board to invite RZ property & business owners to the Merchant Meet-Up and to promote Downtown Blakely banner art contest.
- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Jennifer Mulkey said Heather Allred would explain in more detail about a Spring-Dinner for fundraising at the next meeting. Reynolds mentioned Daddy Daughter Dance around Father's Day. These are popular in other communities, which normally host the dances for Valentine's Day.
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Vikki Ford and Celia Bostwick both explained that there are lots of rules and regulations food trucks go through to operate legally. It can be viewed as an opportunity for Downtown Blakely if managed well. Reynolds mentioned that Jenna Newsome with the Early Co. Health Dept. can help with guidance to manage food trucks in Blakely.

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

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



Dave Atkins
Chairman



Jennifer Mulkey
Vice-Chair