



**Downtown Development Authority of Blakely**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 2024**  
**5:30 pm**  
**Alexander Building**  
**Bynum Conference Room**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Dave Atkins, Franklin Ford, Jennifer Mulkey, Heather Allred, and Brad Clenney.

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Beau Clenney and Edwin James

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Hank Jester and Susanne Reynolds

Dave Atkins, DDA Chair, called the meeting to order and thanked guests for attending.

- **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Brad Clenney and seconded by Heather Allred. All voted in favor.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** A motion to approve the financial report (GCB - \$20,205.93, FSB - \$7,500.00) was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor. Note: Reynolds explained that QuickBooks was purchased for budgeting purposes from the GCB account.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion on the recommendation regarding food truck ordinance/guidelines and court were tabled until Beau Clenney is present. Reynolds said she would send a sample of how to book food trucks she found from the City of Thomaston. Discussion was held on the length of meetings. Allred preps for her business on Mondays and suggested no longer than an hour. Ideally meetings will not last more than an hour - but the board will allow for 1.5 if needed. A motion for meeting length not to exceed 1.5 hours was made by Franklin Ford and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor. Discussion on the number of presentations and requests per meeting was held. Reynolds will act as the gatekeeper to recommend which presentations should go before the board. A motion to accept no more than 3 presentations, limited to 10 minutes per presentation was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.
- **NEW BUSINESS:** Reynolds requested permission from the board to begin researching Downtown Youth Advisory programs and work towards implementing it in Blakely during next year's school term (Tomorrow's Downtown). A motion to approve was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor. Reynolds explained the Local Historic District public hearing would be held on June 4 by the City at 6 pm. A motion to match the DDA boundaries with the local historic district pending

city council approval was made by Franklin Ford and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.

- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Dave Atkins postponed giving an update until all members are present. He asked Reynolds to explain FY25 Appropriations request. Reynolds explained Senators Warnock and Ossoff are recommending FY25 appropriations funding for the DDA to purchase blighted downtown properties and provide start-up infrastructure to assist businesses wanting to locate to DT Blakely. The request is for \$1.67m. This will help boost the local economy and revitalize DT Blakely.
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Reynolds notified the board that the Development Authority of Early County Growth Scholarships were open and would close on May 28 at 5 pm (extended deadline). She asked that the board continue to encourage local artists and photographers to submit artwork for the Vibrant Communities Grant - due June 2 at 5 pm (extended deadline). DDA board member training due by June 6. Send certificates to Reynolds, so they can be filed. As soon as the local historic district is officially designated by the City Council, the DDA's Facade Grant Program can move forward (still pending). Merchant Meetups were also discussed. Reynolds will contact ECN for hosting the event, which will provide info regarding the local historic district once the district is approved. Franklin Ford said BackLight would like to sponsor a future Merchant Meet-Up.
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Brad Clenney provided an update on property located at 2289 S Main St. The owner is willing to sell to the DDA. The City and DDA will work together to facilitate purchase and/or transfer of ownership.

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.

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Dave Atkins  
Chairman

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Jennifer Mulkey  
Vice-Chair

