



*Approved*

**Downtown Development Authority of Blakely  
MINUTES  
Monday, June 24, 2024  
5:30 pm  
Alexander Building  
Bynum Conference Room**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Dave Atkins, Jennifer Mulkey, Beau Clenney, Franklin Ford, Edwin James, Heather Allred.

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Brad Clenney

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Travis Wimbush, Celia Bostwick, Jeff and Katrina Wubben.

Dave Atkins, DDA Chairman, called meeting to order.

- **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the May 28, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Jennifer Mulkey. All voted in favor.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** A motion to approve the financial report (GCB - \$20,004.68, FSB - \$7,500) was made by Edwin James and seconded by Heather Allred. All voted in favor.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** Beau Clenney gave an update on the food truck recommendation to the city and provided example ordinance information for consideration. We discussed for recommendation:
  - Fees - \$250/annually
  - Liability insurance requirement listing city as insured
  - Location – parking lot in between Sheila’s and Blakely Chicken
  - City investment request – provide portable bathrooms, tables, shade, etc
  - Schedule – Friday through Monday
  - Hours of operation – Allred recommended holding off on any hours restrictions given how this could be used to help serve Friday night after football game needs.Beau Clenney made a motion to present as discussed to city council through Brad Clenney. Ford seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Atkins briefly discussed talking points from notes provided by Director, Susanne Reynolds regarding Main Street Georgia and the KGBF Grant Application.
  - Atkins also introduced youth violence reduction seminar and indicated City Policy Chief Caudill is in favor. Reynolds will turn over to Commissioner Chairman Jester and Sheriff Price. Atkins agrees anything with youth is good.

- 200<sup>th</sup> Blakely Anniversary – Ford spoke on the importance of celebrating our community’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary as we can create events to highlight the diverse but rich history and resources our community offers.
- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Dave Atkins, Hank Jester, Susanne Reynolds, Stephanie Chandler, and Britt Price attended Valdosta State University the previous week for seminar for Rural Development Institute. 3 days action packed. Insights (Economist studied South/Southwest GA):
  - 60% of workforce is made up of single parent homes
  - It takes \$33/hr on average to run a home
  - This means if your single parent home, it’s an uphill battle
  - Single parents can go school get 2 year nursing degree, get nursing degree in another 2 years, then they put kids in daycare. Daycare cost knocks them back down financially. This creates hardship.
  - Dave in past learned you could solve 2 issues by offering childcare.
  - Many people lost jobs in covid; many did not want to return because they did not want to get covid. Studies show the group coming back the least – males 25-39. What are they doing – playing video games 7 +/- hours/day. Women in same age group is largest group coming back to work. Stronger workforce that left the least – male and females ages 55-85.

Atkins said happy being chairman, “we are going to move forward with enthusiasm and hopes everyone is on board.”

- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** N/A
- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Mulkey recommended several events for consideration such as a June Jam like music event maybe in August, a Christmas tree lighting and/or pancake breakfast around the time of Christmas on the Square. Mulkey and Allred suggested to focus on chili cookoff in conjunction with doing a fall college football tailgating event in the previously discussed food truck park location. Ford agreed to handle fall rifle raffle and get with Blakely Feed and Seed.
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Celia Bostwick said the Chamber has a community calendar and will be posted on their website. The Wubben’s spoke to the need for more to do for children and suggested the community can improve its overall communication with the citizens on events, etc. Mr. Wubben suggested a pancake breakfast was effective for his son’s boy scout troop in the past. Atkins said, having professional in Little Rock Arkansas, food trucks were very effective in socially and economically stimulating the community.

A motion to adjourn was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Jennifer Mulkey. All voted in favor.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Franklin Ford, Secretary-Treasurer.

Dave Atkins  
Chairman

Jennifer Mulkey  
Vice Chair

Franklin Ford  
TREASURER/SEC