

Downtown Development Authority of Blakely
MINUTES
Monday, July 22, 2024
5:30 pm
Alexander Building
Bynum Conference Room

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

ABSENT MEMBERS: Jennifer Mulkey

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Celia Bostwick, Stephanie Benton

Dave Atkins, DDA Chairman, called meeting to order.

- **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the June , 2024 meeting minutes was made by Brad Clenney and seconded by Edwin James. All voted in favor.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** A motion to approve the financial report was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to discuss.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Reynolds presented an adjustment of the budget with new line items/categories that will be uploaded to QuickBooks. A motion of approval was made by Beau Clenney and seconded by Brad Clenney.
 - Since the estimate to the invoice for the facade grant application (10 Court Square) had changed slightly, the application went back before the board for consideration. Franklin Ford recused his vote since BackLight is housed at the location. A motion to approve was made by Brad Clenney and seconded by Heather Allred. All voted in favor.
 - Reynolds discussed the next round for Vibrant Community Grants through GCA is due on August 30. The application could be used to support the American Legions prospective Veterans Mural project. A motion to support the application if needed was made by Heather Allred and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.
 - A discussion of future Highway 27 Downtown Signage was had with Franklin Ford mentioning the importance of “hometown” style and not a traditional or digital billboard. Reynolds and the board will research examples. A motion to do further research into this project was made by Franklin Ford and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.

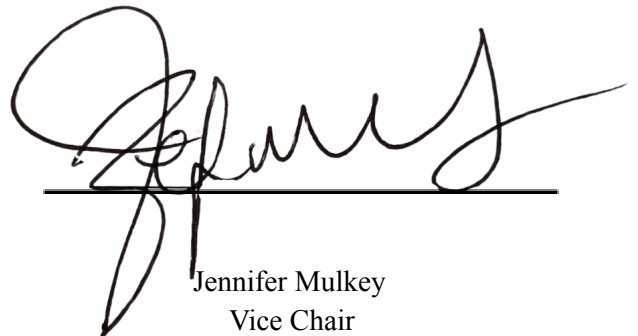
- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** No comments.
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Reynolds mentioned the Early Notices Text Alert System. There are 48 subscribers. She also requested items for the Downtown Blakely gift basket to be auctioned at the downtown conference to support downtown professional scholarships. Three dates for future Merchant Meet Ups were discussed with Heather Ross presenting a John Maxwell mini- leadership session in September. Blakely was given an extension on the Main Street Start Up application. There is a HPC board member vacancy. A Brownfield Info Session will be held on July 29 and a SRTC Economic Development Industry Training Presentation at Rotary on August 22.
- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** The following fundraisers were discussed by Heather Allred - Chili Cookoff. Edwin James suggested this being done during high school homecoming week. Franklin Ford spoke about a Rifle Raffle. He will research and give an update.
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The food truck ordinance recommendation can be presented to City Council at a regular meeting or a special can be called. Beau will get the information to Brad. There was no update on the S. Main Street (Reddick) property. During public comments, Celia Bostwick discussed how things went well with vendors and food truck a 4th of July event - very clean and organized. With the Gateway Project, it had been mentioned to get a billboard for Highway 27. She had a discussion with GDOT in 2017. Stephanie Benton attended to get more connected with downtown. Her gears were spinning by the end of the meeting. She mentioned bike trails are needed and for the board to take a look at Waverly, AL and Crawford, AL.

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, DDA Director.



Dave Atkins
Chairman



Jennifer Mulkey
Vice Chair