

**Downtown Development Authority of Blakely
MINUTES**

Monday, February 17, 2025

5:30 pm

Alexander Building

Bynum Conference Room

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

ABSENT MEMBERS: Brad Clenney, Heather Allred.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Travis Wimbush, City Manager Craig Hughes, Celia Bostwick, Beth Chandler, Cyle and Amber Sapp, and Vikki Ford.

Dave Atkins, DDA Chairman, called meeting to order.

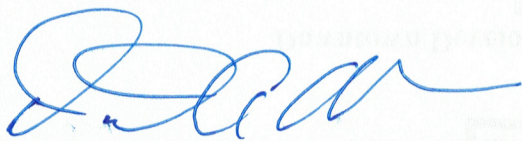
- **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the January 28, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Jennifer Mulkey and seconded by Franklin Ford. All voted in favor.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** A motion to approve the amended financial report for January 25, 2025 and current month financial report was made by Beau Clenney and seconded by Mulkey. All voted in favor.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** Atkins reminded the board of the need to complete Main Street 101 Training by March 31, 2025.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Downtown Blakely Farmers Market – Beth Chandler presented the need for a local farmers market/co-op and she is interested in facilitating it at the Centennial Park by Smitty’s Restaurant. She expressed her desire to partner with the DDA to organize and assist with the event. She already has tentative commitments from 10 vendors and has received much support. The farmers market is to run the third Saturday of each month from April to October and will be open from 9 am to 2 pm roughly. She wants help with marketing.
 - Franklin Ford proposed and made a motion that the DDA allocate upto \$2000 to help fund signage such as banners and yard signs. Ford offered design services of BackLight with logo creation and sign design. He presented an \$1700 +/- estimate for signage. Ford also suggested the DDA promote the farmers market through the DDA website and social media. Clenney seconded and all voted in favor.
 - Façade Grant Application – Tommie and Corene Wright submitted application for Celebration Station located at 62 North Main Street. Ford presented the application to the board. Clenney asked what material is current awning, Mulkey said it was

cloth. Edwin James made a motion to approve application, Mulkey seconded, all voted in favor.

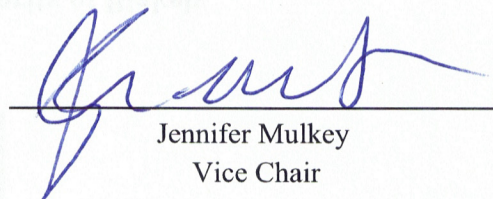
- Merchant Meet-Up – Ford presented Susanne Reynolds recommendation that we schedule the next meet-up in March or April at the Old Goat Soap Company with Shellie Phelps, Chamber Director in Wetumpka Alabama, as the presenter. She will present best practices for community development. The board agreed to present March 31st or April 14th as options to see which work best for host company and presenter.
- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Dave Atkins spoke to the importance of mentoring young people and assimilating them into a community yet their opinion is often overlooked. As one of his action items, Atkins wants to invite young people, to include some from alternative school, to a seminar.
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** N/A
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - Atkins gave his action item report in his chairman report.
 - Ford expressed importance of each member giving monthly update so as not to procrastinate.
 - Clenney asked of the requirement to complete the sheet.
- **CITY MANAGER REPORT:** Craig Hughes informed the board that infostructure maintenance is an ongoing task. The City is installing new pipe along Cedar Springs highway, replacing a water tank, replacing traffic lights. Hughes also informed the board the City will experience a wave of pending employee retirements so personnel recruitment is very important.
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Celia Bostwick said people will travel distance for a farmers market. Mayor Wimbush invited everyone to Community Housing meeting on February 24 at City Hall at 5:30. He also informed the Great American Clean Up is happening at Kolomoki State Park on March 15th. Cyle Sapp requested trash cans from the City for the farmers market – Hughes obliged. Vikki Ford suggested the City close down back street for farmers market. The Mayor and City Manager agreed the city would offer parking in the green lots off Liberty Street.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ford and seconded by Mulkey. All voted in favor.

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



Dave Atkins
Chairman



Jennifer Mulkey
Vice Chair