

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
CITY OF AUBURN, GA

Bel Outwater, *Chair*  
Cameron Whitehead, *Vice-Chair*

Susan Long, *Secretary*

Massa Williams  
Tina Nix  
Mayda Brown

Jon Gomolak

**MINUTES**

November 5, 2024

6:15 PM

Auburn Public Library

24 5th ST

Members Present:  B. Outwater, C. Whitehead, S, Long, M. Williams, T. Nix, M. Brown, J. Gomolak

City Officals/Staff:  S. Waters, R. Rocquemore, J. Bradley. City Attorney, J. Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Call to Order 6:21** **`**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Approval of Minutes:  September 30, 2024**

Action Taken:  Motion to approve minutes from 9/30/24 meeting

C. Whitehead Yes

S, Long Yes

M. Williams Yes (2nd motion)

T. Nix Yes (1st Motion)

M. Brown Absent

J. Gomolak Yes

**Approval of Minutes: Special Called Meeting, September 30, 2024**

Action Taken:  Motion to approve Minutes from Special Called Meeting 9/30/24

C. Whitehead Yes

S. Long Yes

M. Williams Yes (2nd Motion)

T. Nix Yes (1st Motion)

M. Brown Absent

J. Gomolak Yes

**New Business**

1. Update from RGS on downtown development project

They had a drawing to show with updated lawn area and WhistleStop Shops moved next to the railroad track.  Elevation drawings were shown.  They have interested renters and vendors.  Cameron asked about the committee to be formed to spearhead the development.  It will be formed after the contract is signed. Jon asked how many spaces are planning to have a grease trap.  The answer was 2 at the present time.  The Event/Recreation center will have a warming kitchen.  The retail will be a perfect spot for the WhistleStop Shops to move into when they have out grown that space.

2    **Main Street Report**

The Farmer’s Market has ended.  It was a success.  Next year run from May - and no later than the second week in September.

        The Wrestling/Food Truck event was a success.  The event will be planned again next year.

       Trunk or Treat was well attended with around 850

      Next year we need to expand our budget for entertainment at events.

Action taken:  Motion made to approve money for candy for Trunk or Treat and flower for the funeral of one of WhistleStop Shop owners. Eric Venegas -- $750 Candy and $175 Flowers

C. Whitehead Yes

S. Long Yes

M. Williams Yes

T. Nix Yes (1st Motion)

M, Brown Yes (2nd Motion)

J. Gomolak Yes

**3.  WhistleStop Shop Update**

Everyone is good on rent.  Hue Graphics 2 months behind.

We have a vacancy upcoming in January 2025.  Sweet Treat, shop on the corner.  Demona, in shop number 10, would like to move there. That would leave number 10 open to rent. Next month we will discuss this.

**4.  JD Withers Building**

This building is now under DDA.  We have 2 coffee shops looking to lease the space. Rise and Grind and Winder Up.

Rise and Grind will also offer Lotus Brand Drinks. Coffee comes from Washington State. They are fully Financed. Want a 5 year lease. Hours 6 a – 2 p. They will host different events.

Winder Up - Fresh Roasted on Site. Fully Financed. Want a 5 year lease.

 Action taken:  Motion to move forward with lease negotiation with Rise and Grind

C. Williams Yes (1st Motion)

S. Long Yes

M. Williams Yes (2nd Motion)

T. Nix Abstain

M. Brown Abstain

J. Gomolak Yes

**5.  Training Update from Staci** and **Cameron**

Thomasville location.  They said it was very imformative.  Next year will be in Gainesville.

**6.  Joint Work Session Recap**

Last month the City of Lawrenceville sent members of their DDA, Mayor and Council to give us a presentation on how they grew.

How it applies to us? We need to look at property around the area that would serve our purpose and see how we can purchase it.  We need to find our identity.  We need to offer History and Heritage.

**7.  Mayor Remarks**

We are not Lawrenceville.  But one thing I took from their presentation was that DDA and Council need to work together.  He thanked us for our hard work.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next meeting – December 3, 2024

**ADJOURN**

Action taken.  Motion made to adjourn

C. Whitehead Yes

S. Long Yes

M. Williams Yes

T. Nix Yes (1st Motion)

M. Brown Yes ( 2nd Motion)

J. Gomolak Yes

**Respectfully submitted 12/03/2024 Attest**

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**Susan Long Bel Outwater**

**Secretary Chair**