

# **Thomaston Downtown Development Authority**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 23, 2021 at 12:00pm**

An in-person meeting of The Downtown Development Authority was held on Thursday September 23, 2021 at 12:00pm in The City-County Meeting Room of The Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. In attendance were board members: Lane Coggins, Catherine Baity, Jan Knight, Angie McGill, Doug Head, and Ashley Caudill. Board Member Darren Day had an unexcused absence.

Mrs. Caudill motioned to approve the Minutes of the Feb 18, 2021 meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. McGill. All votes were in favor of approving the meeting minutes. Mrs. Baity motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Caudill and carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith gave the board an update regarding the city's Master Plan and pending Rural Zone Application. The Master Plan was presented to council at the 9/21 meeting and will be up for formal adoption at the council meeting on 10/5. Georgia Department of Community Affairs representatives have informed Mr. Smith that the city should hear back on their Rural Zone application the second week of October.

The next item up for approval was the authorization to establish DDA Subcommittees: Economic Development, Events & Planning, and Organizational Promotion & Fundraising. Mr. Smith provided documentation to the board with explicit purpose, goals, and members for each group. Mr. Head motioned to approve the establishment of DDA Subcommittees, which was seconded by Mrs. McGill. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith provided a copy of the current DDA By-laws and an example of another city's (Carrollton) for review. Mr. Smith suggested that he sit down with board member Baity, to discuss the current by-laws and any potential revisions/updates. Mr. Smith asked the board to review the current by-laws and provide feedback before the next meeting on potential modifications.

Mrs. Melissa Lane of Baby Lane's, located at 206 S. Center Street submitted a Facade Grant Application for new signage, paint, and awnings at her building. Mrs. Lane had already received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission. A rendering and all of the cost estimates were provided by Mrs. Lane. Mrs. Knight motioned to approve the Facade Grant Application, which was seconded by Mrs. Caudill. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith gave the board an update on upcoming GA Cities Week Activities: Fire Hydrant Paintings, Youth Art Wall, "If I Were Mayor" Banner Hangings, Downtown Walking Tour, Lakeside Park opening, and Kid's Fishing Derby.

The final agenda item was the discussion of a DDA Christmas Event. In the past, the DDA has hosted the Christmas Lights Parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This parade follows the same route as Homecoming (Matthew's Field-Courthouse-Matthew's Field). Mr. Smith gave an update on other community events during the holiday season (Christmas Lane Opening: 12/4, ASOD Recital: 12/3 & 12/4, Christmas Lane 5k Run: 12/11). Discussion was had regarding which event would work best to potentially collaborate with. The group agreed that moving the DDA event to Greatest Generation Park and partnering with another event would be the best course of action. Mr. Head motioned that Mr. Smith coordinate with Mrs. Lori Smith (TU Chamber) for a joint event on 12/11. Mrs. Caudill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Smith reminded the board members that Mandatory DDA Training would be held on Thursday September 30, 2021 in the Government Complex Auditorium from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Mr. Smith discussed potential pavement markings for the City of Thomaston's newly established Entertainment District, and Curbside Pickup Location outside of Slices/Sabrosos. Finally, Mr. Smith provided the board with a rendering of a potential branding/logo that he had been working on with local artists. The board voiced their support for the logo/branding initiative, with Mrs. Coggins suggesting "Est. 1825" be added inside the water tower.

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was made by Mrs. Gramme and seconded by Mrs. Hoyal. All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator