

**MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The Downtown Development Authority Board held a regular scheduled meeting on February 9, 2022 at Jesup City Hall. Roll call was as follows:

Chair, Dawn Zmuda	Present
Vice Chair, Jeff Chandler	Present
Raymond Brown	Absent
Rick Peel	Present
Kim Rozier	Absent
Jennifer Reeder	Present
Cora Wujceak	Present
Interim City Manager, Rose Marcus	Present
Building Inspector, Don Herrin	Absent
DDA Director, Molly Hall	Present
Secretary, Tracy Smith	Absent

Mrs. Reeder made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wujceak to approve regular scheduled meeting minutes for January 12, 2022. All members present voted yes.

Discussion was held on the following old business:

- Streetscape: Mrs. Hall updated the board on the construction of the streetscape project. She stated that the schedule had changed and construction began on West Walnut St. instead of West Cherry St. She stated that Cherry St. would follow Walnut, with Plum Street following Cherry. She did note that the schedule is subject to change. Mrs. Hall stated the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. She stated that there have been a few complaints, but overall the project is moving smoothly.
- First Fridays: Mrs. Hall gave a recap of the Feb. First Friday Sweetheart Stroll held on Feb. 4th from 5 to 8 pm. She stated that this event went well despite the poor weather. Attendance was not as strong as December, but that is to be expected. She announced that March's event will be Downtown Game Night with mini-golf and giant-sized games. This event will be held on March 4th from 5 to 8 pm. Mrs. Zmuda said that she would like to have photos with the Easter Bunny for the April First Friday event and Café Euro would be willing to host. Mrs. Hall stated she would look into the cost of a costume. Mrs. Zmuda mentioned the board may want to explore seeking approval from City Council for a permit to allow open container during First Friday events in the future. The board discussed this possibility, but no motion was made.

Discussion was held on the following new business:

- Downtown Festival: Mrs. Hall stated that she had been approached by City Council members about Arch Fest. She stated that she would like to see the dates for the festival changed if it is to continue. She also stated that the board may want to look at revamping the festival to ensure it is successful. There was much discussion about dates for the festival. Mrs. Zmuda made a motion to explore the 3rd or 4th week of September (Sept. 17th or 24th). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reeder and all present voted yes. Mr. Chandler was not present for this motion and did not vote. Mrs. Zmuda also stated she would like to see some kind of a kickoff event like a parade. The board also discussed location and the consensus of the board was to keep the event on West Walnut Street.

- Director Hall gave her report:
 - She gave an update on the Pocket Park construction. She stated that City public works maintenance employees are currently working on another project, but will be removing the sign structure upon completion of that project. She told the board that Wayne County Forrester Derrick Duncan agreed with the tree choices for the park, noting that Laurel Oaks would be fairly slow growing and should be a good choice for the park. She did state that the root system width would be about the same as the tree growth. The board decided to plant the trees on Arbor Day on April 29th at 10 am. Mrs. Sybil Lynn and family will be invited to attend and participate. She also stated that she had reached out to UGA about the updates to renderings, but it may be a month or more before they could do them.
 - She announced that Union Station Brewing Company is anticipating a June opening and is working on a Façade and Sign Grant Application.
 - She stated that the City is undergoing a website revision and she will be having some new marketing photos taken downtown. She stated she is coordinating with the photographer to schedule these photos.
 - She announced that the Wayne county Arts Council had relocated downtown to 143 West Walnut Street and will be having a small concert on Feb. 25th at 7 pm.

Meeting Adjourned,

Molly Hall

Director