



**DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
of Augusta

**Downtown Development Authority of Augusta
Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023**

The Downtown Development Authority held its monthly meeting on February 16, 2023, at 10 am at the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce, located at 1 10th Street, Suite 120.

DDA board members and staff in attendance were Chairman Jack Evans, Vice-Chairman James Heffner, Secretary-Treasurer Stephen King, Phuong Nguyen, Pastor Anthony Booker, Commissioner Jordan Johnson, Executive Director Margaret Woodard, Project Coordinator Katherine Bonner, and Legal Counsel Jeb Murray. Also in attendance were Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce President Sue Parr, Former Commissioner John Clarke, and Augusta Tomorrow Vice President Rob Wynn and Executive Director Lauren Dallas.

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 10:04 am and thanked the Chamber and Mrs. Parr for hosting the meeting.

Mr. King introduced the consent agenda, which included the January 2023 meeting minutes and financial reports. There were no questions or comments. Pastor Booker made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with a second by Mr. Heffner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Mrs. Parr presented the Chamber's position on the City Administrator in reference to hiring and firing powers. The board accepted it as information.

Mr. King and Ms. Woodard introduced an application for a facade grant for 407 Telfair Street, the recently-renovated Prontaut Henry House, on behalf of Peach Contractors, Inc. The property now contains six residential spaces, and leasing has begun. All necessary documentation and images were submitted along with the application. Ms. Woodard noted the importance of housing in the downtown business corridor, as 96 percent of housing in the area is currently occupied. Mr. King made a motion to approve the facade grant in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Heffner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, with a recommendation for the Design Committee to review the return on investment for current and future facade grants.

Mr. King and Ms. Woodard additionally introduced a request for funding by the Fifth Street Marina. A motion was made by Mr. King for the allotment of up to \$20,000 of new furniture, with an agreement that the Marina would work with the DDA to determine what options would be best suited for the cost and location. Mr. Heffner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wynn and Ms. Dallas gave the board an update on the ACE program. Augusta Tomorrow is currently exploring methods to secure permanent funding for downtown cleanup.

Ms. Woodard distributed and discussed the Directors Report, highlighting progress made with active projects, the downtown Augusta microenterprise center, discussions on creative funding opportunities for developers, and the Chamber Red Carpet meeting on 1/27.

Mr. Evans asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Booker made the motion, with a second by Mr. King, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen King
Secretary-Treasurer