



**DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
of Augusta

Downtown Development Authority of Augusta

Board Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024 at 9 am

DDA Offices, 1101 Greene Street

The Downtown Development Authority held its monthly meeting on October 17, 2024, at 9am at the DDA Offices, located at 1101 Greene Street.

DDA board members and staff in attendance were Vice-Chairman James Heffner, Commissioner Jordan Johnson, Phuong Nguyen, Pastor Anthony Booker, Executive Director Margaret Woodard, Media Specialist Tara Wood and Project Coordinator Corbin Freeman.

Vice-Chairman Mr. Heffner called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and started by thanking everyone for taking time out of their schedules to attend our monthly Board meeting. James continued by asking if there were any questions or comments about the consent agenda, then moved for a motion to approve. First motion of approval was by Jordan and second by Mr. Phoung. James proceeded to ask if there were any concerns about the financial statements. There weren't any questions, therefore Mr. Heffner asked for a motion to approve the financials. Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the financials with a second by Pastor Booker and the motion passed unanimously.

James then handed it over to Ms. Woodard to present her director's report, highlighting the following:

Economic Development

Lamar Building: Construction loan has closed and will begin the process next Year in 2025.

Framework: Construction will begin Q1 of 2025.

Proposed Hospitality Project: The developer has completed a feasibility report and MMI has withdrawn from the project.

East Boundary Project: Moving forward with creating Student Housing for this project.

Bradley's BBQ: SSBCI loan is still waiting to be approved.

Accelerate Augusta: The Executive Director is Sheffie Robinson. The logo has also been selected and ready to be revealed 2025. A \$750,000 sponsorship has been secured for operating / salary / start-up expenses. The project is estimated to be completed by March and open in April.



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Storm Recovery Efforts: Tranter Gray ran 3 public service ads' on WJBF. Spoke with Shell Berry to discuss the Emergency Relief Funds going toward the Community Foundation. We have 2 donors and will fund raise up to \$250k starting January. We were also able to delay the TIA project on Broad, especially on holidays, until next year. SBA wants the DDA to help sponsor a workshop on available loans for small businesses on Jan.15. The DDA is also working with Karen Stafford of FEMA for funding for the workforce development.

Carl Vinson, Downtown Renaissance Grant: The report has been completed, and they will be presenting it at our next Board meeting. Then we will present it to the commission.

Other:

Jones Street Alley: Received the Kemp grant and construction will begin Jan. 2025.

Organization: Our staff members, Tara & Corbin, have attended development summits. Both are working towards their development certifications.

James asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jordan Johnson made the motion with a second by Pastor Booker and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.