



**DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
of Augusta

Downtown Development Authority of Augusta

Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025 at 1 pm

DDA Offices, 1101 Greene Street

The Downtown Development Authority held its monthly meeting on March 20, 2025, at 1 pm at Accelerate Augusta located at 600 Broad Street.

DDA board members and staff in attendance were Chairman Jack Evans, Vice-Chairman James Heffner, Phuong Nguyen, Pastor Anthony Booker, Judge Ashanti Pounds, Executive Director Margaret Woodard, Media Specialist Tara Wood, and Project Coordinator Corbin Freeman. Commissioner Jordan Johnson and Secretary-Treasurer Stephen King both attended the meeting virtually.

Chairman Mr. Evans called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and then took a moment to express his appreciation towards Mr. Heffner for leading the Board while he was away. Mr. Evans continued by asking if we had a motion to approve the amended agenda with the striking of item number 5. The first motion of approval was made by James Heffner, and Ashanti Pounds made the second, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. King introduced the consent agenda, which included the February 2025 meeting minutes and Financial Reports. There were no questions or comments. Mr. King asked for Mr. Evans to make the motion to approve financials. Mr. Evans motioned to approve the financials with a second from James Heffner, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Economic Development

Marion Building: Now under contract for 60 market rate apartments with mixed-use retail.

Hotel Project: Matt Brindle is making progress on the hotel with Synovus Bank financing and new operating manager.

Framework: Phillip Smith has redesigned the site, secured financing, and he is closing with Curtis Baptist on June 30th and construction will start in fall.

Student Housing: We have a potential housing developer coming into town next week to visit some sites for possible student housing options.



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Accelerate Augusta: \$200,000 check was received from the city and the construction of the roof has begun. There will be a meeting every 2 weeks to give an update on the progress of construction. The plan is to shoot for a Ribbon cutting around mid May. From now on it will be called "Accelerate Augusta Inc". We have recently activated a 501C3 so that we can have a standalone organization. The bylaws have been completed as well but there will be an Accelerate meeting to approve the bylaws. Tara has found a grant for phase two of the project so that is a plus for us.

AT Masterplan: We have met with Maddie Sue Stevens to discuss the revisioning Vincent report. She loved the Reynolds street project and she also talked with us about the building registry for blighted buildings.

Broad Street TIA Project: The meeting at Louigi's was based on a group of business owners who wanted to gather and express their feelings towards the TIA project effects on their businesses. The biggest concern from them was the loss of parking spaces near their establishments during construction. The commission is supposed to have a plan by the end of the month plus John Usry is going to create a plan to calm traffic in those areas and create more spaces. As for now, the traffic website is updated daily for our community to follow and we are working on obtaining renderings to display in storefronts.

Other

New Business: Two grants are in progress which are Augusta's Players Club and Bradley's BBQ. Dylan Clugo presented a facade grant request for Fifth and Fire at 549 Broad Street. They have spent at least \$15,000 on improvements and are only requesting \$5,000. Chairman Jack Evans moved for a motion to approve. The first motion of approval was made by James Heffner, with a second by Pastor Booker, the motion passed unanimously.

Organization: Tara has updated all kiosks with QR codes for everyone to be able to sign up for bi-weekly traffic updates. Corbin will continue to work with the Saturday Market vendors to see if any of them want to move forward with a physical location of their own Downtown.

Mr. Evans ended the meeting by telling the board how much he appreciates their time, effort, and patience. He also expressed that we all have acknowledged the growing pains of all the business owners and concerned residents but we have to continue to work through everything with them. Chairman Jack Evans motioned to adjourn the meeting, James Heffner made the motion with a second by Ashanti Pounds and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.



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