

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2023
2:00pm-4:00pm
Gameday Conference Room
250 W Broad St**

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Leonard, Mike Hamby, Andrew Ratcliffe, Jeff Bishop, David Lynn, and Linda Ford

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Allison Wright, Carter Green, and Rachel Swartz

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Mike Hamby motioned to approve the minutes from the June 2023 Board Meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Public Input** – none

3. **Community Reports**

- **CVB** - none
- **Chamber** – none
- **DABA** – none

4. **Directors' Reports**

Planning and Outreach

A. BOS Presentation – David Lynn provided the board with a proposed contract to provide enhanced security assistance to downtown visitors near the College Square and nearby areas. BOS is currently providing security to both the college Avenue and Washinton /street parking decks. Carter Green from BOS explained that they would provide an unarmed, uniformed employee with a minimum of four-hour shifts starting at \$25/hour plus a cell phone. The cell phone number can be distributed to the businesses in the downtown area. Attorney Greg Sowell would like to clarify some phrases in the contract before signing. Mike Hamby motioned to allow the directors to execute the contract once the language is approved. Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

B. Newton Street Closure – David Lynn announced that the Mayor and Commission voted to permanently close Newton Street at the last commission meeting.

C. Newton St. Meigs St. 2-Hour Parking – The ADDA was asked to provide enhanced enforcement in this area as a response from merchants and elected officials. Downtown parking will be enforcing the two-hour limit only, since metered spaces are not installed in this area. Staff will patrol the area with

license plate readers and begin with a period of warnings rather than citations. New signage designed by Sign Brothers will be placed along Meigs and Newton Street in the vicinity of Bottleworks. The signs are scheduled to be installed on August 18.

Business Services

D. Banking Update – Linda Ford explained to the board that ADDA had two checks stolen, washed, and cashed last month. The checking account had to be closed and Business Manager, Rachel Swartz, is still working with First American Bank and the ADDA Accountant, Daniel Dooley. ADDA will start relying less on printed checks and switch some procedures while maintaining all required checks and balances.

6. Financial Report – Parking revenue ended FY23 over \$3 million.

7. Suggested Topics for following month's meeting – Mike Hamby thinks we should look at selling our ADDA office and look for a more centralized space. Jeff Bishop asked about the torn-up sidewalks that have piles of concrete left around.

8. Adjourn – Jeff Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mike Hamby seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, September 14, 2023

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach