

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2023
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Gameday Conference Room (second floor)**

REGULAR MEETING

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, Deputy Chief Harrison Daniel, and Xinge Lei

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Drew Dekle motioned to approve the minutes from the September 2023 Board Meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Public Input** – none
3. **Community Reports**
 - **CVB** – David Bradley suggested that everyone look at the CVB’s new logo and branding campaign, “We’re Always Open.”
 - **Chamber** – David Bradley noted that ACC and the Chamber are ready to roll out the workforce development plan. Also planning to host 60 people from Gainesville and Tuscaloosa in 2024.
 - **DABA** – none
4. **Panhandling Discussion with ACC Police Deputy Chief Daniel** – Deputy Chief Harrison Daniel spoke with the board regarding panhandling in Downtown Athens. He explained that Athens-Clarke County has an ordinance prohibiting aggressive panhandling. Panhandling alone is not a criminal offense and explained that there is case law supporting panhandling as a First Amendment right. The board discussed methods used by other communities including signage encouraging downtown visitors to donate to local non-profits that offer wrap-around services to unsheltered residents.
5. **Directors Report** –
 - Business Services**
 - A. **Expanding Junk South services** – Currently, ADDA partners with Junk South to clean four alleys in downtown Athens. At the most recent Litter Abatement Steering Committee, the litter at the corner of Willow St and North Ave was discussed. Solid Waste will be replacing the trash cans with a

more secure design. ADDA has extended the contract with Junk South to service the area once a week. ADDA staff will continue to evaluate the frequency needed.

6. **Financial Report** – Parking income has increased from last year, totaling \$353,000.00 for October 2023.
7. **Suggested Topics for next meeting** – Board members suggested more discussion about Pay by Plate, giving priority to redesigning College Square, music events that could use College Square, and updates on the Costa Building.
8. **Executive Session** – Drew Dekle made a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of Legal, Personnel, or Real Estate matters. David Bradley seconded.

Once out of executive session, Kelly Girtz motioned to eliminate the contract with BOS for downtown security and explore hiring off duty police officers. Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

Kelly Girtz made a motion to extend contracts and increase salaries for Linda Ford and David Lynn to \$85,000 starting January 1, 2024. There will be a review at the next board retreat and a cost of labor adjustment (COLA) will be determined at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Adjourn** – Drew Dekle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. The board adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach