

**Athens Downtown Development Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting and Retreat**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

**Gameday Conference Room**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, Nick Barker, Kenya Cambell, and Jeremy Smith

**1. Approval of Minutes** – Jeff Bishop motioned to approve the minutes from the April 2024 ADDA Board Meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

**2. Public Input** – none

**3. Community Reports**

- **CVB** - none
- **Chamber** - none

**4. Real Time Crime Center – Nick Barker, Senior Crime and Intelligence Analyst, ACCUG Police Department** -The Athens-Clarke County Police Department received funds to create a Real Time Crime Center. The center connects surveillance cameras from apartments, businesses, and body cameras to help police solve crimes quicker. The board is interested in doing a downtown assessment to see if there are any places that need more cameras and possibly connect outside deck cameras to the crime center. Mike Hamby suggested the ADDA create a grant to help downtown businesses purchase security cameras. Drew Dekle motioned to authorize staff to go ahead with facilitating the assessment and grant and Mike Hamby seconded. Motion passed.

**5. Directors' Report**

- A. **Tax Levy and Assessment** – Under authority of the Act creating the Athens Downtown Development Authority (ADDA) up to one (1) mill can be levied and assessed against real property in the downtown Athens area, as defined by the act. The ADDA needs to recommend a millage rate levy to the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government at this time.

Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the resolution recommending a tax of one (1) mill upon the value of said real estate as fixed by the Tax Digest of Athens-Clarke

County, and to authorize the director to transmit the Resolution to the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government. Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

B. **Homeless Coalition Update** – Linda Ford told the board that a new director for the Homeless Coalition will start on June 1. The Homeless Coalition Board is also looking for a simpler system for coordinated entry.

C. **Art Decko Public Art Project, Round 3** – When Central Services renovated the stairwell in the College Avenue deck last year, the murals were removed and returned to the Athens Area Arts Council. The ADDA will issue a call in the next few weeks for Art Decko Round 3. The ADDA will partner with the Lyndon House Arts Center to provide artists with studio space. The murals are expected to be ready to hang in the deck by mid-August.

**5. Financial Report**– The Parking revenue for April 2024 was \$331,410.

**7. Suggested agenda topics for following month’s meeting** – Jeff Bishop looked into some additional financing options to renovate College Square. He gave rates for a traditional loan using ADDA revenue streams as collateral and possibly using TSPLOST funds to pay back loan.

**8. Executive Session** - None

**9. Adjourn**– Mike Hamby motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.

---

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

---

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

---

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach