

MINUTES
CITY OF DAWSONVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers, City Hall 2nd Floor
Monday, November 9, 2023
5:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** William Ilg called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Present were members Jonathan Campbell, Tasha Howell, Dwight Gilleland, Jamie McCracken and William Ilg.

City Staff in attendance included Downtown Development Director Amanda Edmondson and City Clerk Beverly Banister.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by D. Gilleland.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to amend the agenda to add item #10 Request for Special Use of City Property made by D. Gilleland; second by J. McCracken. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by T. Howell; second by J. Campbell. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
5. **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**
 - Regular Meeting held September 25, 2023Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by D. Gilleland; second by T. Howell. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
6. **REVIEW FINANCIALS THROUGH OCTOBER 2023:** Board reviewed financials. No questions or comments.
7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – AMANDA EDMONDSON:**
 - i. **CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST AND SPONSORSHIP (LIGHT UP DAWSONVILLE):** Positive feedback from the community for the program. The Chamber will be partnering with the DDA and assisting with advertising. They also retained Patterson Moore Butler, Sawnee EMC and True Natural Gas to contribute funding for the prizes. McEver signs is also partnering in the program by providing the first fifty yard signs for the program which will be placed on displays of those who sign up.
 - ii. **BANNERS:** Banners were resized to be placed on poles downtown and have been ordered and printed. They will be put on display once the Christmas decorations come down.
 - iii. **GOSPEL IN THE PARK:** The act which the DDA is supporting has been booked and contracted.
 - iv. **STRATEGIC PLAN:** The November 2nd meeting was well attended and received some great feedback. Students in the CTA program were also surveyed and asked to provide feedback. Future surveys may also be implemented by UGA and Lanier Tech. Final public meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **AMICALOLA EMC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DONATION:** Director Edmondson reported the DDA once again received this generous donation from Amicalola EMC. Funding will be utilized to help buildout the restaurant space next to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame to fulfill the requirements to spend the money on economic development.

Motion to accept the \$20,000 grant from Amicalola EMC and transfer the funds to the City of Dawsonville to contribute to the restaurant buildout made by J. McCracken; second by D. Gilleland. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
9. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ONGOING NEW MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS BY CITY COUNCIL:** Director Edmondson updated the Board on the two vacancies and appreciates the recommendations. Currently the nominees are being vetted. Councilmember Ilg stated his preference is for downtown business owners who would be vested in the growth of downtown.

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- 10. REQUEST FOR SPECIAL USE OF CITY PROPERTY:** Councilmember Ilg explained the request which came before the City and he asked the Board to provide their input via email or phone sometime in the future since it is located within the downtown district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Edmondson reported UGA will be here this week to start an interview/training process to develop a collection of oral histories for cultural preservation for Dawson County and Dawsonville. She asked the Board to consider possibly contributing some funds to compensate the interviews.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade will be Saturday, November 18, 2023 starting at 2:00 pm.

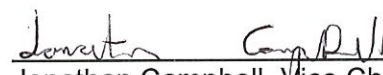
ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:10 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. McCracken; second by D. Gilleland. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Approved this 22nd day of January 2024.

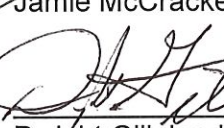
By: DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY


William Ilg, Chairperson


Jonathan Campbell, Vice Chairperson


Tasha Howell, Secretary/Treasurer


Jamie McCracken


Dwight Gilleland

absent

Mary Wright


Trey Thomas

Attest:


Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk

