

DDA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

Location: Blairsville City Hall

Time: 12 PM

Megan Kimsey (Chair) called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM.

Present for Meeting: Megan Kimsey, Courtney Waller, Chris Wadle, Rhonda Mahan, Mayor Jim Conley, DDA Director Kristen Bentley

Guests: Crystal Fairless, Union County – Blairsville Chamber of Commerce

A Quorum was established.

During public commentary, Crystal Fairless voiced concern over the City Council's decision to deny a public hearing and proceedings regarding establishing an Entertainment District in Downtown Blairsville, as a majority of downtown business owners voiced approval surrounding the district and the prospect of bringing more commerce into their stores. Rhonda Mahan responded that the City Council did not feel comfortably unified to move forward with the District and do not think now is the right time to establish it in downtown.

Minutes (4/10/24): Kristen Bentley stated that the minutes from the April meeting would be reviewed at June's DDA Meeting.

Financials (April 2024): Courtney Waller made the motion to approve the financials of April 2024. Rhonda Mahan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

DDA Director's Attendance to GMA Conference 2024: Kristen Bentley asked for the DDA to approve hotel and conference expenses for the Georgia Municipal Conference in June. Chris Wadle mentioned that due to the fact that this training was not drafted out in the budget for 2024, we may need to adjust the budget before the year's end. Chris Wadle made the motion to approve GMA expenses. Rhonda Mahan seconded. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Old Business:

Entertainment District Update: Kristen Bentley discussed updates regarding efforts to establish an Entertainment District in Downtown Blairsville. The Blairsville City Council has made the decision to not proceed with a reading of the first ordinance draft (originally scheduled for the May City Council meeting), nor the public hearing that had been arranged to address the public's concern over the district. Rhonda Mahan, as a representative of both the City Council and the DDA, stated that the council felt that this was not the right time to implement the District in Downtown Blairsville.

Director's 6 Month Review: Megan provided an update that Kristen Bentley's 6 month review was completed on April 18th.

DDA Training Update: Kristen Bentley asked for any training updates from the Directors– none had been completed. Kristen Bentley also encouraged all Board members to attend the Third Thursdays Zoom meeting she joins with Georgia Main Street each month.

Director's Update: Attached in the packet for review. No action was taken.

Work Plan: Attached in the packet for review. No action was taken.

Chris Wadle made the motion to adjourn the May 14th DDA Board Meeting. Rhonda Mahan seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.