

Eastman Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes for Monday, April 15, 2024
Eastman City Hall
4:30 p.m.

Authority Members Present: Andrea McCranie, Roy Grenade, Paula McCain and Willie Mae Nash.

Authority Members Absent: Sammy Young, Wynnon Pittman

Others in Attendance: Mimi Dennis, Loraine Aguayo, Ellery Aguayo, Howard Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 4:55 p.m. by Chairperson Andrea McCranie.

The invocation was given by Roy Grenade.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andrea McCranie.

A motion to approve the April 15th agenda was made by Roy Grenade and seconded by Paula McCain. Motion is Carried.

A review of the March 18, 2024 minutes was held. A motion to approve the March 18th minutes was made by Paula McCain and seconded by Willie Mae Nash. Motion is Carried.

Mr. Howard Johnson was present at the April 15th meeting. Mr. Johnson gave an update on the retrieval of goods he purchased from the Wholesale Property. Mr. Johnson indicated to the authority he was two weeks behind schedule. Mr. Johnson thanked the authority for being gracious.

An expenditure in the amount of \$26.00 was presented to the authority for approval of payment. This expenditure is payable to The Dodge County News for advertisements. A motion to pay the bill was made by Roy Grenade and seconded by Willie Mae Nash. Motion is carried.

A facade grant application was presented by authority member Roy Grenade for 221 Main Street - a mural. The application was in order and Roy Grenade made a motion to approve the \$1,500.00 expenditure and it was seconded by Paula McCain. Motion is carried.

There was not a financial report given at this meeting. Information was received that a balance of \$31,032.82 was the balance as of March 30, 2024. A motion to receive this as information was made by Roy Grenade and seconded by Willie Mae Nash. Motion is carried.

Chairperson Andrea McCranie gave the authority an update on the strategic plan. She introduced Mimi Dennis, who is assisting with the preparation of the strategic plan. Mrs. Dennis assigned data gathering to the following authority members:

Roy Grenade - retail

Willie Mae Nash - demographics

Paula McCain - Leakage Report - out of county info

Wynnon Pittman - information from city regarding water and sewage and infrastructure.

The authority recommended a Work Session to be scheduled for April 30th at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of continuing work on the strategic plan. A motion to hold the work session was made by Paula McCain and seconded by Willie Mae Nash. Motion is carried.

Paul McCain gave an update on the Drive-In Movie fundraiser. McCain discussed the challenges with the fees for the license to show a movie.

A date was discussed as well as a back-up plan in case of rain. McCain will present more information at the May meeting.

The strategic plan was discussed. The authority was reminded of their assignments and to have them ready for the April 30th work session meeting.

Paula McCain mentioned the dates for the Georgia Downtown Association Meeting in Thomasville which will be held on August 28 and 29.

Andrea McCranie presented an idea to have the alleys in downtown Eastman improved for multi-functional uses. McCranie presented slide shows of several ideas of how to improve the alleyways.

In public comments, Loraine Aguayo asked several questions to the authority regarding the strategic plan and regarding grants.

A motion to adjourn was made by Roy Grenade which was seconded by Willie Mae Nash.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.