



## Eastman Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors Minutes

**Date:** September 16th, 2024

**Place:** Eastman City Hall

**Board of Directors Present:** Andrea McCranie, Lorraine Aguayo, Paula McCain, Willie Nae Nash, Roy Grenade, Sammy Young **Attorney:** Rita Llop **absent** **Absent:** Roy Grenade

**Financial Report:** Motion was made by Paula to accept the financial with a second by Sammy Young, motion carried

**Minutes:** Approved the minutes from August 19th, 2024 EDDA meeting. Lorraine Aguayo made a motion to approve the minutes with a second made by Willie Nae Nash.

**Invocation:** Sammy Young

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Chair Andrea McCranie

**Approved Agenda:** A motion was made by Wynnon Pittman to amend the agenda to add the Executive session as the first order of business for the purpose of property acquisition and legal matters and add Wholesale property as item 8 on the agenda of old business. Paula McCain seconded the motion. Motion carried

- Wynnon Pittman made a motion to go into Executive session with a Second by Sammy Young. Motion carried.
- Wynnon Pittman made a motion to come out of executive session with a Second by Paula McCain motion carried.
- Paula provided a packet for the Rural Zone and Strategic Plan that was given to her by Brett Manning and his peers. Paula Stated that the Rural zone will be done for us free of charge and that the Strategic Plan would cost us approximately \$7,000 - 8,000. She also informed the board that there was a lot to do. There is quite a bit of work to do and everyone needs to be involved. Paula stated that we were going to have several meetings, possibly 1 or two a week at times. Paula informed the board that we needed to form a committee group of stakeholders. A minimum of 12 people. Paula also informed the board that we need to have 3 projects that are shovel ready that are going to be done within the downtown area to apply for the Rural Zone. Paula stated that we need to become a working board and it can't be the same people doing everything going forward. Our next meeting will be in November with the Stakeholders. We need to have a work session prior to the November meeting.
- We set up a Work Session to discuss the Strategic Plan for September 30th, 2024 @ 4:00pm at City Hall. Wynnon Pittman made a motion with a second by Paula McCain, motion carried.
- We discussed the Alleyway project between 3rd and 4th. Paula McCain informed the board that due to infrastructure issues, there are ways and other materials to use (beside pavers) to move forward with the project that would be easily replaced to fix any issues that may occur. Andrea stated that there may be SPLOST funds available. Paula will get some quotes and plans on the

project before moving forward. We will discuss it at the September 30th, 2024 work session, then we will have a called meeting after the work session at 5:30 to vote on any things dealing with the Alleyway project.

- We tabled the Crosswalk Murals until we could get more information.
- We recapped the Comedy show. The show was a success but Lorraine stated that she felt it lacked board participation. Many board members didn't even participate, selling tickets and hanging flyers. Paula stated that there should be better communication between all board members. If you send out an email, send it to all board members due to the fact that sometimes we don't always get our emails. This would keep things from being left off and particular things left out. We did refund a participating sponsor's Sponsorship money due to the fact that they were left off of the program. We greatly apologize and we decided that we would advertise for them at the next DDA event for free.
- Paula touched on the Music on Main/Fall festival and asked if the DDA would be Community Sponsor in the amount of \$350.00. Lorraine made a motion to be a Community Sponsor in the amount of \$350.00 with a Second by Willie Nae Nash. Motion carried with Wynnon Pittman and Sammy Young opposed.
- Paula informed the board that there are 2 grants available to apply for however we needed to have a url/Website To apply. One with Norfolk Southern and one with T-Mobile. Rita suggested that we use the City's website. The City would set up a tab on their website for the DDA.
- Wynnon Pittman spoke with Wholesale builders about them putting up a fence on the property line between our property and theirs and also removing the trees on our side of the property line so the trees wouldn't cause damage to the fence. Wholesale would pay for the fence and the tree removal. They would not remove the Stumps but they stated that they would put a poison on them. Paula made a motion to enter into agreement acceptable to both parties and Wynnon made a Second to remove the trees and put up the fence. Motion carried.
- We discussed the Code of Ethics. Andrea made a motion that we all read the Code of Ethics and sign off on it. We are here to promote and embrace businesses within the Downtown Community. We need to look at the current Code of Ethics and make any amendments we deem necessary. There have been numerous complaints regarding the certain DDA board member(s) demeaning other new and current businesses. Wynnon Pittman referred to page 5 of the current code of ethics. All complaints should be submitted and signed under oath and clearly address matters within the scope of this article with the City Clerk.
- Paula discussed some possibilities for upcoming grants and some of the requirements.
- We discussed the possibilities of doing a Christmas event. Paula was going to look into the cost of purchasing an ice skating rink. We may want to do something in conjunction with the Lions club parade on December 14th. Several Non-profits are interested in participating. Paula made a motion to entertain the idea of having a Christmas event around the 13th and 14th of December. With a second by Lorraine. Motion carried. Details to be determined throughout the planning period.
- No additional expenses to report
- Wynnon mentioned that we have the Agenda earlier. Willie Nae Nash stated that we need to support each other. Paula stated that she couldn't post anything on the facebook page. The 4 officers need to be added to be administrators on the account.
- Public comments were that we support the Football team more.

*+ minutes*

Meeting Adjourned

  
Andrea McCranie, Chair

  
Paula McCain, Secretary