

Downtown Development Authority of the City of Perry
Minutes - March 25, 2024

1. Call To Order: Chairman George called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Roll: Chairman George; Directors Cossart, Forrester, Rhodes, Rosales, Tuggle and Mosely were present.

Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director and Christine Sewell – Recording Clerk

2. Invocation: was given by Director Rhodes
3. Guests/Speakers - None
4. Citizens with Input – None
5. Old Business – None
6. New Business
 - a. Approve minutes of February 26, 2024, meeting

Director Forrester motioned to approve as submitted; Director Tuggle seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- b. Approve February 2024 Financials

Director Rosales motioned to approve as submitted; Director Rhodes seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

*Director Cossart arrived at 5:07pm.

- c. Meeting Decorum Guidelines Review

Ms. Wharton reviewed the guidelines for the board.

- d. Work Plan Review
 - e. Northside Drive\Meeting Street Plan Introduction
 - f. Proposed Golf Cart Parking

*Director Mosley arrived at 5:17pm.

Ms. Wharton, in follow up to the work session has put together the 2024 workplan. From discussions the plan includes the focus areas for 2024 which will be 1). Parking Improvements, 2). Street Lighting Improvements, 3). Downtown Property Planning (700 Block of Carroll & Main Streets, and Northside Drive & Meeting Street). The third item was developed from the discussions after conducting a highest and best use analysis and will be a focal point for the board's work in 2024.

Parking Improvements will include creating dedicated golf cart parking spaces and implementing. Improve efficiency and implementation of Ball & Main Street parking lots. Ms. Wharton provided a map of six proposed golf cart parking spaces – three on the Ball Street side by New Perry Hotel, one on the corner of Ball and Carroll by the Chamber offices, one in the parking lot of City Hall; it was noted none of these would take away any vehicle parking spaces; the board concurred for staff to move forward to present to Council.

Street Light Improvements will be to collaborate with the Main Street Advisory Board and Placemaking Committee to develop an action plan and funding sources and project implementation.

Downtown Property Planning will be to identify strategies for properties vacant, city owned, and privately owned on the 700 Block of Carrol & Main Streets. Northside Drive and Meeting Street – working with city staff to conduct a small commercial area plan to include vacant, city owned, and privately owned properties.

Chairman George asked for status of proposed angled parking on Main Street and Director Cossart on the delay for the 700 block of Carroll proposed parking; Ms. Wharton advised it was due to the cost; the board asked for specifics as it was understood some of the cost was due to stormwater infrastructure. Director Cossart also suggested looking at public restrooms; Bainbridge has a facility that was done and is working well.

g. DDA Photos

Ms. Wharton asked the board if they were agreeable to having their pictures posted on the city website; the board concurred, and they will be scheduled for the April meeting.

7. Member Items - Director Forrester advised she had seen in Rome and Blue Ridge six-seater golf carts that provide rides to downtown visitors and this may be something to investigate in the future.
8. Main Street Advisory Board Report – Director Cossart reminded everyone of the April 19th wine tasting and the Placemaking Committee which will focus on public art and beautification had their kickoff meeting.
9. Chairman Items – None
10. Adjourn: there being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.