

Downtown Development Authority of the City of Perry  
Minutes - July 22, 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 Mosley were present.

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

Guests: Jim Lay

2. Invocation: was given by Director Rhodes
3. Citizens with Input – None
4. Guests/Speakers – None
5. Old Business – None
6. New Business
  - a. Adoption of FY2025 budget

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

- b. Natural Gas Reimbursement – 742 Main Street

Ms. Wharton advised the application has been reviewed and it complies with procedures and noted a second application for the location is anticipated to be submitted for the remaining equipment; what is submitted for approval now is for the pizza oven. Chairman George inquired if the funding was there; Ms. Wharton advised there was as the city provides and reimburses the DDA.

Director Forrester motioned to approve the natural gas reimbursement in the amount of \$18,203.06; Director Cossart seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

Director Mosley arrived at 5:05pm.

- c. Approve minutes of June 24, 2024, meeting

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

- d. Approve June 2024 Financials

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

e. Northside Drive Support Request

Chairman George advised WCH Homes has requested from the DDA support for connectivity of sidewalks from Northside Drive and Meeting Street into the core of downtown. Ms. Wharton advised she has conferred with Chad McMurrian, Engineering Services Manager on the most feasible and economic way which is to come down Northside Drive and make a crosswalk then install sidewalk along Washington Street instead of Meeting Street. The estimated cost would be \$325,000; it was noted the sidewalk would have brick bands. Ms. Wharton is requesting a consensus of support for the project. Director Rosales abstained from discussion. Director Cossart and Forrester agreed with the proposal as it would provide more foot traffic downtown, which is a benefit. The board agreed to support the project and advised Ms. Wharton to prepare a response to city administration.

7. Staff Items

Ms. Wharton advised the mid-block crosswalk on the 900 block of Carroll Street will be removed as it does not comply with city standards for sidewalks. The board asked Ms. Wharton to relay to administration the necessity of the crosswalk and in lieu of spending money to take away, funds should be spent for it to meet the standards.

Ms. Wharton advised GDOT in the coming weeks will most likely begin the Commerce Street realignment. The city will move forward with the Jernigan Street Extension. The Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board committee member selection is in process. The Drink & Dine promotion is still ongoing but not receiving as much participation as last year and the Main Street Board may come back to the DDA to allocate any remaining funds elsewhere.

8. Member Items - None

9. Chairman Items – Chairman George advised he and Ms. Wharton will be meeting at the end of the week with a developer for the redevelopment of the 700 block of Carroll Street.

10. Adjourn: there being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

*Approved 08.26.24*