

Downtown Development Authority of the City of Perry
Minutes – August 25, 2025

1. Call To Order: Vice Chairman Tuggle called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Roll: Directors Cossart, Forrester, Mosley, Rhodes, Tuggle, and Way were present. Chairman George was absent.

Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director, Alicia Hartley – Downtown Manager, and Joni Ary – Recording Clerk

2. Invocation – was given by Director Rhodes.

3. Citizens with Input – None

4. Guests/Speakers:

- a. Alicia Hartley, Downtown Manager – Welcome Park funding request.

Ms. Hartley presented to the Board a request from the Main Street Advisory Board for matching funding of \$4,103 to support the placemaking project, which includes the installation of flower musical instruments at Welcome Park. Director Marlon motioned to approve the request as outlined for matching funding of \$4,103; Director Forrester seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Director Cossart abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

5. Old Business:

- a. Review proposed changes to the table of use.

Ms. Wharton advised the Board that the proposed changes to the table of use have been completed and will be presented to the Planning Commission for a recommendation to proceed with the process, which will then be reviewed by the City Council.

6. New Business

- a. Approve minutes of July 28, 2025, meeting.

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

- b. Approve July 2025 Financials

Director Way motioned to approve as submitted; Director Mosely seconded. All were in favor, and it was unanimously approved.

c. Natural Gas Grant Application – Fuego Fresco

Ms. Wharton presented the natural gas application request from Fuego Fresco. Ms. Wharton suggested approval of the application with the condition that all itemized receipts and invoices are verified. Director Rhodes motioned to approve the application with the condition as outlined; Director Way seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

d. General Discussion – Northside Drive and Meeting Street

Ms. Wharton asked for ideas for the development of the property adjacent to the event center. Some ideas for a possible mini amphitheater, possibly collaborating with a landscape architect to develop the concept. Ms. Wharton stated there are restrictions on what the event center can be used for and will report back to the Board on those restrictions.

7. Staff Update

- Ms. Wharton stated that Sweet P's restaurant has closed.
- Ms. Wharton stated the Perry Rural Mural from the Main Street Board was approved by the City Council at their last meeting.
- Ms. Wharton stated upcoming events from Main Street include the Scarecrow event in November and the Beer Tasting event on October 17th, with tickets for the event already on sale.
- The GDOT infrastructure project on Commerce Street is near completion. The GDOT will begin its work on the bridge over General Courtney Hodges Boulevard, which will affect the City of Perry's Christmas Parade route.
- The City of Perry is looking at replacing the sewer line on Jernigan Street between Orleans on Carroll and Sweet P's restaurant.
- The City of Perry location is a finalist for the 2027 Georgia Downtown Conference, with a site visit scheduled for next Friday.
- At the Board's next meeting, a booklet outlining all the City Boards and their respective roles will be presented, along with a plan for a joint meeting with the DDA, Main Street, and Historic Preservation Commission.
- The City Manager, Lee Gilmour, has retired, with his retirement date being September 2nd.

8. Member Items

- Director Forrester stated she is waiting for plans for her building.
- Ms. Wharton stated she has not heard anything about the Walgreens Building.

- The Board mentioned street lighting in the alleyways downtown. Some of the alleyways are privately owned and would require an easement to install lighting.
- Ms. Wharton stated the City Attorney is reviewing the relocation of the Confederate Monument to Legacy Park.
- Ms. Wharton advised Visit Perry is working on rebranding and is interested in any feedback.

9. Other - None

10. Chairman Items –None

11. Adjourn: Director Forrester motioned to adjourn the meeting, as there was no further business to come before the Board; Director Way seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Approved 11.24.25