

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2014

The meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Straight at 8:32 am.

Members Present: Cheri Richter, Bill Bruce, Jim Lomis, Gary Straight, and Terry Landreth

Members not Present: Councilman Dave Reilly, and Charlie Smith,

Guest in attendance: Tonya Glazebrook

Staff: Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant, John Holman; City Manager

Minutes: The August 11, 2014 meeting minutes were presented by Landreth. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lomis and seconded by Bruce. All were in favor.

Straight noted that he had not had an opportunity to type up the notes from the I-95 discussion from the August meeting but will get those to Renée soon to email to the board members.

Treasurers Report: Landreth presented the financials which were approved with a motion by Lomis and seconded by Bruce. All were in favor.

Additions to the Agenda: Landreth added discussion of the JDA move with the addition of Darren Harper as the project manager and how this will affect St Marys. Straight added DCA Authority Training, Board Participation Requirement for Training, Directors and Officers Liability Coverage and Invitation for the Tourism Director for the October meeting to discuss Tourism as it affects Downtown Development.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Team Camden: Nothing to report.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): Straight reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to lack of items to report on.

Maritime Heritage District: Mr. Holman reported that applications for the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) can begin today. The City Planner is moving forward with the application.

Historic Tree Trail: Richter reported that they are still waiting on the grant.

Economic Development Committee: Lomis reminded all of the public meeting on the 1 mil tax increase meeting that will take place on September 24 at 6:00 pm. The funds from this tax will be used for Economic Development incentives for Camden County. Question was asked about the status of the Master Plan for the city and the City Manager responded that the budget has a line item of \$25,000 for the Master Plan project and this process will be worked on further once an Economic Development role is filled for St. Marys.

JDA Move with New Project Manager: it was noted that the Kingsland Economic Development Director now works for the county JDA. Landreth asked the City Manager what the status was on the hiring of an Economic Development Director for St. Marys. The City Manager reported that a job description has been completed for a position within the city with a revised job description. The job description will be in Thursday's edition of the Tribune and Georgian. Mr. Holman projected that in approximately two months the Main Street Coordinator position should be filled. It is his desire to have this position filled prior to moving forward with the Master Plan process.

The board asked if the new JDA director could attend the next DDA Board meeting. Renée will contact him to check his availability.

DCA Training: Straight mentioned that he and several board members attended this training in Savannah and noted that this training is mandatory for board members. Renée advised him that board members are scheduled to attend the training once they are nominated to the board.

Directors and Officers (D&O) Insurance: Straight mentioned this insurance that was discussed during the Board Authority Training that he attended recently. He questioned if the board has some type of coverage with the city. Renée made the board aware of the D&O insurance policy that the DDA board currently has.

Invitation for Tourism Director: Straight noted that he would like to invite the Tourism Director to the October meeting to discuss Tourism as it affects Downtown Development. Renée noted that the invitation to the meeting is sent out monthly to tourism and will make a formal invitation to the October meeting.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am with motion by Lomis and second by Bruce. All were in favor.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant