

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2013

The meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Straight at 8:30 am.

**Members Present:** Jim Lomis, Cheri Richter, John Morrissey, Terry Landreth, Charlie Smith and Gary Straight

**Members not Present:** Jerry Brandon

**Guest in attendance:** Leslie Hamrick; President/CEO Camden County Chamber

**Staff:** Artie Jones, III; Director, Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant

**Minutes:** The board reviewed the August 12, 2013 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Smith and a second by Morrissey. All were in favor of the motion.

**Treasurers Report:** The city financials had not been received by the time of the meeting so two sets of financials will be reviewed at the October meeting.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Straight added to the agenda: DDA update and letter from the Chairman on the back of the report.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Team Camden:** AJ reported that the event scheduled for October 30 & 31<sup>st</sup> has been renamed Camden County Connection. Developers, elected officials and local leaders will be invited to the event. There will be a charter bus tour of properties/sites to be developed, a boat tour and a tour of the base and a submarine with a briefing by the base commander. Team Camden will also follow up on the second day with a PowerPoint presentation of the developable properties that were visited. AJ also reported that at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting a proposal from Team Camden will be presented for the possible relocation of the Economic Development function to co-locate with the other Team Camden entities at a site to be determined. The offer was extended to St. Marys after the Chamber, Joint Development Authority (JDA) and the City of Kingsland discussed this venture. The deadline for the move is the end of 2013. AJ asked the board to email him with their questions on the possible relocation so that he would be prepared for the council meeting.

**Redevelopment Powers Law:** AJ reported on the Sidebar Conference that will be held in Savannah on September 28<sup>th</sup> and noted that all Council members and Board members are invited to attend this no fee seminar. Currently Councilman Morrissey and Chairman Straight are planned to attend.

**St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG):** AJ reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. At this meeting the committee will discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) authorizing Forum Group, LLC to act as representative for the SMIG property development. If projects are presented that meet the 5 objectives of the committee, Forum would assist with the development package. The MOU states that Forum will not receive any payments from the City of St. Marys for services. Forum will report to Council, the SMIG committee and the DDA if the MOU is approved.

AJ reported that a video shooting with the company CGI was made last week for the City of St. Marys. The videos will be linked to the city website in the near future. The 3 video clips will discuss the quality of life, housing and economic development in the city. The video was created of no charge to the city and video advertisements will be sold to local business owners to offer exposure to their businesses.

**Maritime Heritage District:** AJ noted that there have been no further developments. The permits have been forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the city is still waiting for replies. Morrissey asked AJ to get draft 2 of the report from the City Planner and email it to the board.

AJ reported that he and the Tourism Director were charged with creating a greater view of St. Marys at the newly remodeled Exit 1 welcome center. AJ presented a picture of the more visible display of the “St. Marys” area in the welcome center.

AJ reported that council requested a look into a gateway entrance project from Exit 1 to St. Marys road and the Hwy 40 interchange. AJ has contacted several developers and is currently receiving bids to see how much a design would cost. Information will be presented to council in the near future.

**Economic Development Committee:** Lomis reported on his current involvement with the Chamber committee and how it links to his position on the DDA board. The committee’s goal is to create a dashboard for reporting several key factors indicating strengths and weaknesses for Camden County. Housing, retail and military will be focused upon in the report. Lomis will update the board each month on their status.

Morrissey reported that the JDA will be having a visioning session on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Morrissey will be requesting feedback from the DDA. Straight asked if the information could be given as soon as possible so that the board members could discuss it at the October meeting in order to create a formal letter from the DDA on their stance on the item.

**DDA Update and Letter from the Chairman:** Straight asked the board members to send him an email by Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> listing what they feel the DDA accomplished in 2012 and what they expect to accomplish in 2013. Straight will draft the letter including some of the comments received.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Businesses and Updates:** AJ reported that there will be an Enterprise Zone meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am held in an open forum. Currently a map of the Enterprise Zone is being created as well as applications and forms to be used for the project. An evening meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 9:33 am with a motion by Smith and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

---

Charlie Smith, Secretary  
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant