

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CITY OF AUBURN, GA**

Jon Gomolak, *Chair*
Mayda Brown, *Vice-Chair*
Susan Long, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Massa Williams
Tina Nix
Layla Contreras
Dakota Whaley

WORKSHOP

July 29, 2026
6:45 pm
City Playground Pavillion
3rd Ave

In Attendance: J. Gomolak, M. Brown, S. Long, M. Williams, T. Nix, L. Contreras, D. Whaley
Mayor Rick Roquemore, Councilman, Jonathan Eggleston

CALL TO ORDER

6:47 pm

BUSINESS AT HAND

Mayda called the meeting to order to discuss how DDA is related to Main Street and what the benefits are in keeping the two together.

We are meeting in order to discuss Section 1 and Section 2 of the Agenda at the July City Council Meeting.

Section 1 would separate the DDA from the Main Street Program.

Section 2 would allow the DDA to open a checking account under the name of the DDA, giving it authority over it's funds.

All members are in agreement that Section 2 is a much needed item. We need to be able to know the current balance in order to be able to acquire funds for the duties of our office.

Each member was allowed to ask questions and voice opinions on Section 1. Background: In trying to find current paperwork on our Main Street status, Jon found out that our affiliation with them had expired about 5 years ago. He filed the appropriate paperwork and we are on probation status.

Massa: Massa stated that she started out on just Main Street and then moved to DDA. At the beginning, WhistleStop Shops paid City Hall. They started paying DDA when it was created to handle leases. She would like to know what our goal is. She feels like our only goal should be to work with our City Council Members to achieve our common goal of buying and leasing property. She would like for us to meet with City Council on a regular basis so we can talk about what our plans are for growth. She wanted to know what our goal was in staying with Main Street. Layla answered that we have access to more grant money. . Massa asked if that could still happen without being tied to DDA.

She feels like we should not be in charge of City Events and therefore not be responsible for paying for them.

Layla feels like DDA and Main Street go hand in hand and in order to have strong city growth, once a business enters the city, DDA should be there to help it succeed. Events and activities draw people into town to spend money so it is easily part of our Goal to help Businesses succeed. Our surrounding Cities that use the joint format are growing. Layla also noted that maintaining the Main Street partnership provides priority access to state grants, favorable financing terms, and economic development tools for local business.

Dakota says so much is unknown and he has a lot of unanswered questions. He would like more information.

Tina said that she feels the same as Dakota.

Jon would like to have open meetings with City Council. Now that we have the first downtown project under construction, He is eager to locate more property to maintain and generate funds. He would like to talk about how we can support the businesses as they move in.

Susan asked, "Why have approx only 100 cities, out of the 600 Cities in GA, joined Main Street?" If we nail down the answer to this, it will help us make a decision on how important it is to Auburn. As the new Treasurer, our current DDA budget is not sufficient to fund the Main Street Events as they should be funded. We will have to look for additional help. It has been mentioned that the quality of the Events have gone down this summer.

Mayda is ready to get to work on building downtown business relationships. She listened carefully to everyone and reminded us that we are a great team and all bring value to our Board. She asked us all to reflect on what we learned from each other at this workshop and looks forward to meeting with council to start working.

Action Taken: Motion made to adjourn meeting.

M Brown	Yes (1 st Motion)
S Long	Yes
M Williams	Yes (2 nd Motion)
T Nix	Yes
L Contreras	Yes
D Whaley	Yes

Next Meeting : August 4th, 2026 6:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Jon Gomolak, Chair

Susan Long, Secretary