

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**CITY OF AUBURN, GA**

Jon Gomolak, *Chair*

Mayda Brown, *Vice-Chair*

Susan Long, *Secretary*

Massa Williams

Tina Nix

Layla Contreras

Dakota Whaley

**MINUTES**

June 2, 2026

6:15 pm

Auburn Municipal Complex

Rm 201-Council Chambers & Courtroom

1 Auburn Way

Members Present: J. Gomolak, M. Brown, S. Long, M. Williams, T. Nix, L. Contreras, D. Whaley

City Officials/Staff: Jonathan Eggleston, City Council Member; Jack Wilson, Attorney; Amanda Vinson, Main Street Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

6:16

Action Taken: Motion to amend the Agenda to include a presentation on the new Social Media Accounts by Layla as Number 4.

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| M. Brown     | Yes(1 <sup>st</sup> Motion) |
| S. Long      | Yes                         |
| Williams     | Yes                         |
| T. Nix       | Yes                         |
| L. Contreras | Yes                         |
| D. Whaley    | Yes(2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion) |

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of Minutes: May 5, 2026

There was a problem in sending all pages of the minutes of May. Completed copies need to be delivered to all Members and updated on the website.

Action Taken: Motion Made to table the approval of the May Minutes until July's Meeting.

|              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| M. Brown     | Yes(1 <sup>st</sup> Motion)  |
| S. Long      | Yes                          |
| M. Williams  | Yes                          |
| T. Nix       | Yes                          |
| L. Contreras | Yes                          |
| D. Whaley    | Yes (2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion) |

Action Taken: Motion to add a RGS Development Update by Mayda as Number 5

|              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| M. Brown     | Yes                          |
| S. Long      | Yes                          |
| M. Williams  | Yes (2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion) |
| T. Nix       | Yes                          |
| L. Contreras | Yes                          |
| D. Whaley    | Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> Motion) |

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Education Plan for 2026 – Jon

In order to update our training and keep all members in compliance, Jon has been in contact with Ellen Hill the Main Street Compliance and Training Coordinator DCA Georgia. We would like to have one of their Partners, Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA, come to us for training. Available times and dates will be looked into. A copy of the email from Ellen Hill is attached.

2. Introduction to DDA By-Laws – Jon

A copy of the City of Auburn GA DDA By-Laws are attached. These are from 2009. It is time to look at them to see if any updates or changes need to be address. This will be done in conjunction with our Attorney, Jack Wilson. Workshop will be planned. Through the Main Street Program, we are considered Downtown Affiliate on Main Street.

3. Main Street Update

June 9<sup>th</sup> Touch a Truck for Kids  
June 12<sup>th</sup> Forks on Fourth  
June 27<sup>th</sup> Car Show Morning  
Fireworks Evening

The City of Auburn will operate two FaceBook Pages. Main Street and City of Auburn. City of Auburn will be City Hall and Government Information. Main Street will be more Events and Business Information. The same Post will be on both pages for 6 weeks and then they will run separate.

Massa asked if better communication could be established between the WhistleStop Shops and City Events. There is a lot of confusion about the location of Main Events. Shop owners rely heavily on income from foot traffic of events. Moving them to The Perry Rainey Center takes away business from them. Could we consider bringing them back to Main Street since Downtown Contruction would not interfere? Especially for the Fireworks Events.

4. Social Media – Layla

Layla presented a Presentation of our new social media accounts. We will have a FaceBook and Instagram Account. There will Business, Events and Development updates at Discover Auburn GA. Slides Presentation included.

## 5. Downtown Development Update – Mayda

AT&T, Comcast and Ga Power will all be starting work very soon. Caleb from RGS was present and gave an update. The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be July 14<sup>th</sup> 11 am. Local State Senator and Representative are invited. Food Trucks also. An easement with CSX in 1991 may be canceled, looking to see if it is legitimate. Calab had a request about the Architectural Review Board Member voted on by DDA. Asking if all members of the board had to agree on the new appointee, Dakota. It will be addressed and answered at a later date. Layla asked if there were any new Letters of Intent from new businesses. The answer was no. RGS has set up an Auburn Development Website call Waterworks on Fourth.

At this time, Jon asked if the agenda could be amended to add Public Comments at the end of the meeting.

**Action Taken: Motion made to allow Public Comments at the end of the meeting.**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| M. Brown     | Yes   |
| S. Long      | Yes   |
| M. Williams  | Abstain ( would like more time to consider) |
| T. Nix       | No  |
| L. Contreras | Yes (2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion)                |
| D., Whaley   | Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> Motion)                |

At this time, members of the public where asked if anyone would like to speak.

Demona, A WhistleStop Shop owner, expressed her concern over moving all events to the Perry Rainey Center. Development was not a factor and please consider moving them back until it is.

Shekila Role – She is dishearten to hear that so many items were not answered tonight. She hopes we will continue to improve and look for answers. As we are looking into Businesses or Activities for Downtown, she asked if we would please consider activities for our Youth.

Jana Devane ( Pet Store Owner, Downtown Auburn)

When posting Downtown Activities information, please add all Businesses, Not just the WhistleShop Shops.

Silvia Barber

Thank you for trying to keep the public updated and being so transparent.

Carolyn Fitz

Thank you for being Transparent. After hearing about development for over a year now, she is wondering if it is really going to happen. The public is losing faith in the Development,

Announcements:

Next Meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Action Taken: Motion made to adjourn**

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| M. Brown                           | Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> Motion) |
| S. Long                            | Yes                          |
| M. Williams                        | Yes                          |
| T. Nix                             | Yes                          |
| L. Contreras                       | Yes                          |
| D. Whaley (2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion) | Yes                          |

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Jon Gomolak, Chair

Susan Long, Secretary