



**CITY OF AUBURN, GA**

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

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

June 24, 2026

2:30 pm

Auburn Municipal Complex

Rm 201-Council Chambers & Courtroom

1 Auburn Way

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

City Staff: Josh Rowen

**CALL TO ORDER**

2:32 pm

**Action Taken:** Motion Made to start our Budget Workshop with Josh Rowan, Council Member

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member, Josh Rowen, had a meeting with our City Planner, Michael and the City Accountant, Sunshine. Right now DDA and City of Auburn finances are run through the City. DDA can vote to have their own accounting system and accounts. We would need to hire our own attorney and accounting firm to perform an audit every year.

DDA had revenue from a land sale of \$309,000. Out of that amount, 188,000 was put aside to be our Budget for 2025 – 2026. \$150,000 has already been set aside to move the WhistleStop

Shops. That leaves us \$38,000 for expenses.

Right now our only source of income comes from the Rise and Grind Coffee Shop at \$12,000 annually. Our income we used to get from the WhistleStop Shops, is greatly missed. It has been handed over to RGS Developers until the shops are moved. Josh recommended that we find a way to work with them to speed things up, They are a year behind. We need to regain this income.

Josh reminded us that DDA and Council work together and need each other. If we see property we are interested in purchasing for the City, let council know. If we both agree, City may be able to help with Money.

Each Member was then allowed to ask Josh questions:

Amanda: Is Main Street still a budget line item in DDA.

Answer: Yes it is

Layla: Do we get any Revenue from Forks on the Fourth (Food Truck Friday's)

Answer: No. We do not get any revenue from any of our downtown events. In fact, some City's agree to pay the Food Truck Vendors if they do not make over a certain amount in order to have them participate.

Who is our point of contact for Budget information?

Answer: Josh said he would be happy to try to get what information we need.

How was our Education allowance spent?

Answer: It was training for Layla, Dakota, and Amanda. Approved by our Chair

Massa: How do get the WhistleStop Shops moved faster?

Answer: DDA has to pay for moving the shops. Go ahead and get with the City on using employees to do the work. Show plans for decks, sidewalks, etc. If they see how ready and serious we are about this project, This may motivate them to work faster.

Mayda: Can DDA set up booths to sell items for DDA Revenue?

Answer: Josh will have to investigate and get back with us.

Dakota: What percentage of education do we have to meet?

Answer: 2 hours annually after the introduction to DDA and Main Street

When is the city budget voted on?

Answer: Budget workshops are being held now through our Vote in September.

Dakota: mentioned that we do need to start the footwork of pre-planning to move the WhistleStop Shops. He was to first to suggest this.

Susan: Has the City been looking at properties for the DDA to consider purchasing?

Answer: They are a few vacant lots and house we are interested in. Josh shared that the city would like to partner with DDA and split Alcohol tax. This would give DDA another source of revenue.

Jon: When the WhistleStop Shops are ready to be returned to the DDA, will the City Council have to vote for their revenue from rent to be returned to DDA, or will it just automatically happen.

Answer: City Council will have a vote to return them.

Josh then mentioned that other Cities have held bingo nights in which you have to pay to participate. DDA could not collect for revenue from Bingo, but we could receive funds from food or other items sold there. If DDA would like to pursue, we can.

Action Taken: Motion made to adjourn

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