

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
September 11, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Board members Mike Lahr, Bob Phillips, Doug Buck, Jeannette Sommer, Travis Silvas, Tom Hewitt.

STAFF: Deputy City Clerk Dell'Acqua and Community Development Director Myrkle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 10, 2014: Board member Buck moved and supported to approve the minutes of July 10, 2014 as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ABSENT: Tim Jewell, Mayor Burch

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dan Wambaugh, Wambaugh, White & Co., owner, Charlotte addressed the board regarding the amount of semi-truck traffic on main street and the amount of noise on main street. He was also concerned about the safety of the citizens crossing the street.

Discussion was held.

Board member Lahr commented on the timing of the lights as an ongoing issue.

Director Myrkle agreed that there are issues with the traffic and the safety while the semi-trucks travel through downtown. He mentioned a discussion with MDOT on the issue and how they were of no help. He mentioned the alternative routes through Packard Hwy and Lansing Street. But, commented on the expense of re-routing. He would like to have a forum with MDOT and the business owners to discuss the concern of the downtown traffic.

Board member Lahr would like enforcement to write more tickets for the speeding of the trucks through town.

Director Myrkle stated that perhaps the Police Department and MDOT could work out a solution.

Board member Hewitt mentioned angled parking and the use of Packard Highway as a route.

Chairperson Sommer was in favor of MDOT visiting the Board.

Director Myrkle said he would set up a meeting with MDOT, the business owners, and the public so all could voice their concerns.

Board member Buck commented on the noise of the compression braking of the semi's.

Chairperson Sommer thanked Mr. Wambaugh for his comments.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. MSHDA APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Director Myrkle reported that there are six above storefront apartments in development. Four of them are located in the Masonic Temple building; one will be at 239 S. Cochran and one at 124 E. Lawrence. He explained that they will be funded by the State for \$240,000 dollars and another \$191,000 dollars will come from private sources. The Masonic Temple was encouraged by this development and the income, for it will stabilize their building and determination as an historic site in the City. Mr. Myrkle stated that once the apartments were finished that there will be open houses for the public to see them.

B. ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Director Myrkle recently attended an Economic Summit. He explained that because of the public concern for our Public School's reputation and performance and our business crisis, he had taken a survey of 350 people. He learned that some municipalities found this helpful in finding solutions. The results of the survey revealed the concern of truck traffic and the need for more signage encouraging the public to support local businesses.

He mentioned to the board that there would be two more summits in the future and he would keep them informed of the dates and times.

C. DOWNTOWN TREE REPLACEMENT:

Director Myrkle reported that the Consumer Energy Grant, was available to replace downtown trees. He had the soil tested and found that it was very poor for planting. He explained that when the area was re-soiled he found the trees to thrive better. He stated that it costs \$1,000 to

replace the trees downtown. He asked the board for their approval to purchase more trees.

Board member Phillips moved, supported by Buck to authorize the \$1,000 dollars for the purchase of new trees as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

OTHER REPORTS:

Director Myrkle reported on the success of the Summer Concert Series at the Courthouse Square. He talked with quite a few people during the summer and many liked the variety of music. He welcomed any suggestions or comments for the future. Mr. Myrkle also mentioned the construction of a band cover, for events downtown, during inclement weather. A local family mentioned donating the band cover as part of a memorial.

Mr. Myrkle also reported that two Courthouse Square benches had been run over and it would cost \$1500 dollars each to replace them.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Board Member Phillips stated that at the Taste of Charlotte they sold over 1600 tickets. The businesses said that they were up from the year before and found it a success.
- Board member Buck reported that the Farmer's Market has been going well and there has been an average of 18 vendors each weekend.

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Sommer at 8:20 a.m

Deputy City Clerk, Denise Dell'Acqua