

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 14, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:33 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Burch, Tim Jewell, Tom Hewitt, Bob Phillips, Doug Buck, Jeanette Sommer and Travis Silvas

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2015:** Board member Phillips moved to approve the minutes of April 23, 2015 as presented. Second by Hewitt. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**ABSENT:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ken Wirt, 123 N. Bostwick, addressed the board about the snow removal in downtown parking lots and the order in which they were cleared.

Discussion was held on the priority of removing snow in each of the lots.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**1. DDA FUNDING AND BUDGET:** Director Myrkle reported the issues of the DDA's budget and what the revenue and debts were annually. He reiterated removing

tax exempt properties, such as the IGA and other parcels, as mentioned in the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Special meeting, to generate more revenue. He also suggested establishing a "Principal Shopping District" for the Lansing Rd businesses to generate special assessments. He encouraged the board, to consider levying the 2 mills, than disband.

Director Myrkle presented the budget to the board and explained in detail the line items. Director Myrkle encouraged the board to pay off the Corral debt of \$65,000 and to start anew.

Discussion was held on the future of the DDA and the idea of levying 2 mills.

Chairperson Sommer was in support of the DDA and she spoke about the history of the board and the work it took to develop it. She was in favor of levying the 2 mills.

Board member Hewitt asked Director Myrkle what entity would pay for the contingent services if the DDA would disband. He was in favor of the 2 mills to keep the future of the downtown free of blight. He was also in favor of including the Lansing Rd district, if it was to increase revenue. He asked what steps were needed to expand the DDA.

Director Myrkle stated that City Council would be responsible for the decision on the expansion of the DDA into the Lansing Rd district. He reported that the traffic on Lansing Road is significantly higher than that on Lawrence Avenue leading to downtown, indicating that a lot of exiting I-69 traffic never makes it past Lansing Road. He also informed the board that

the risk in expanding to the Lansing Road district may cause the County to opt out and it would adversely affect the taxes.

Board member Jewell stated that DDA had more operating needs and was concerned in their overall role in the mission of the board. He commented that the TIFA was more of a role than the maintenance of the city.

Board member Silvas stated that it was a bad time to disband the board with so many interested groups working toward the development of downtown. He was in favor of the 2 mills and he was also in favor of the sponsorships to help alleviate costs for the city events.

Board member Buck agreed that the community activities would be affected.

Board member Phillips was in favor of paying off the debt of the corral. He commented on the cost of trash removal.

Mayor Burch was in favor of the 2 mills. She stated that perception is stronger than reality. She was opposed to the board disbanding for it is an important part of the city and its development.

Director Myrkle stated that most of the public aren't aware of what the Downtown Development Authority board does. He stated that we need to educate the public and advertise the activities better.

**Board member Phillips moved to recommend the amended budget to Council to include 2 mills. Second by Hewitt. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.**

## **2. FAÇADE LOAN PROGRAM – COUNCILMEMBER DYER:**

Councilmember Dyer presented a grant option to the board for façade improvement of the businesses downtown. He explained the workings of the fund and how part of the settlement from Owens-Brockway would be used in this revolving loan fund.

Discussion was held.

Board Member Silvas left at 8:40 a.m.

## **3. CONSIDERATION OF PARKING LEASE PROGRAM:**

Director Myrkle stated that a few business owners approached him regarding leasing parking spots near their businesses. He stated that he wasn't in favor of this idea at first but, after researching the idea he found it to be a possibility.

Discussion was held.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Chairperson Sommer stated that she would like to see more service clubs like the women's club to care for the flower beds.

**Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Sommer at 8:50 a.m.**

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Denise Dell'Acqua, Deputy City Clerk