



DOWNTOWN DALTON DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Dalton Freight Depot

MINUTES

Present:

Board members in attendance: John Davis, T.J. Kaikobad, Juan Lama, Meagen Shepherd; Lt. Jamie Johnson, Dalton Police Department; Ty Ross, City Administrator; Steve Card, Dalton Parks & Recreation Department; DDDA Staff-Kendra Evans, Tanner Jaco.

Call to Order:

Mr. Kaikobad called the meeting to order.

Minutes:

Mr. Lama moved that the minutes be approved as presented for the April 20 board meeting, seconded by Ms. Shepard. The motion carried. The board discussed amending November's board meeting minutes to reflect a conversation with representatives of the City of Dalton regarding the lawsuit between the City and the DDDA explaining that even if the DDDA did not sign the presented document removing them as conduit between the City and the DDDA for the lease of the Dalton Depot building, the City would move ahead with the lawsuit. Mr. Davis made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lama. The motion carried.

Financials:

The discussion on the financial report was tabled until Mr. Carnes can assist Ms. Evans in completing it.

New Business:

Mr. Card from the Parks & Recreation Department discussed pursuing the construction of a fountain on Thornton Avenue at the entrance to Cuyler Street. Mr. Davis made a motion for the DDDA to declare a recommendation to the City for the construction of a new fountain under the condition that it is contained. Mr. Lama seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The board discussed the steps being taken in the hiring process to replace Ms. Evans as director. Ms. Evans will send applications to the board as they are submitted through the City, and board members will reply with their availability to interview qualified candidates.

The board discussed the upcoming changes to compensation requirements for salaried employees, referring to an email sent from City of Dalton's Human Resource Director Greg Batts (see attached letter) which will require an employee not receiving overtime pay to make a minimum of \$47,476 per Year. The board acknowledged that the change in policy could affect the Director position.

The board discussed event security for downtown events. Mr. Davis made a motion to recommend to the Dalton Chief of Police that event organizers in need of event security would pay the DDDA, who would then write a check for the same amount to the Dalton Police Department to cover the overtime rate for the officers working the event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lama. The motion carried.

The board discussed the 2016 Downtown Christmas ornament. The board requested a list of ornaments that have been done in the past to facilitate making a decision on the 2016 ornament.

The board discussed a request for a façade grant from the Carpet Capital Association of Realtors at 204 W. Gordon Street. The board denied the request for the grant to cover signage, pressure washing for the front of the building, benches, and planters due to the fact that these are not capital improvements. The board approved \$1980 for a new awning and paint.

Old Business:

The DDDA staff updated the board on the lawsuit between the City and the DDDA. The DDDA has been granted a 30-day extension to answer as of April 28. City Administrator Ty Ross is setting up a meeting with himself, Mayor Dennis Mock, and DDDA board members Caleb Carnes, Juan Lama, and Meagen Shepard to discuss next steps.

Reports:

Chamber: Mr. Kaikobad reported that the Chamber is in the middle of identifying its priorities and is focusing on unifying organizations around town.

CVB: Mr. Davis reported that Tunnel Hill's visitations are at a record high for the year.

City: Mr. Ross discussed Dalton State's interest in bringing an economic development center to downtown and Bandy Heritage Center's desire to move out of the Freight Depot, therefore freeing the space up for community events.

Public Safety: Public Safety had nothing to report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanner Jaco

Hello Everyone,

The Department of Labor just released its final regulations to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) concerning the requirements for salaried employees. **The effective date of these changes is December 1, 2016** so we will have some time to prepare. Those of you with employees who will be affected should have received the list of employees in an earlier email. I suggest that you proceed with speaking with these individuals in order to prepare them for the upcoming changes.

Below is a list of the revised regulations. As the effective date draws near, I will initiate any updates/corrections that need to be made in the payroll system and timekeeping system and will notify you prior to the changes becoming effective. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Here is an overview of the revised regulations:

- 1. Salary Threshold Changed to \$913/week (\$47,476 per Year). This threshold doubles the current salary threshold level. While this level is slightly lower than the threshold in the proposed rule, it still encompasses many employees that are currently classified as exempt.**
- 2. Automatic Salary Threshold Increases Every 3 Years (Not Annually) to Maintain Level at 40th Percentile in Lowest-Wage Census Region. This means that the minimum salary level for exempt status may change every three years based on the above criterion so in the future, we must be prepared to possibly change the status of various employees if necessary.**
- 3. Duties Test is Unchanged. There was speculation that not only would the salary threshold change but the duties for salaried employees would also change. Fortunately, the DOL did not alter the duties test.**