

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
100 Campus Dr.
Jasper, Georgia 30143
MINUTES
Monday, May 18, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

Members Present:

Parish Lowrie - Chair
Pam Watkins – Vice Chair
Marty Callahan
Brian Rittenberry
Jack Dunn
Morgan Watson
Brandon Hannah

Members Absent:

Guests in Attendance:

Jason Hutson
Jackie Ivey
Councilman Tony Davis
Mike Ponicki
Penny Dicus
Amy Myers
Sarah Cornwell
Brandy Kincaid Shoemake
Tracy Kincaid Jones
Amberle Godfrey
Chris DeMaio
Cindy DeMaio
Gloria Whitaker
Audra Bailey
Valerie Ansted
Amy Leake
Chris Leake
Malinda Geers
Amber Benitez
Dave Terry
Sue Appleton

Press:

Know Pickens
Dan Pool – Pickens Progress

Agenda item: Call meeting to order
Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Presenter: Chairman Lowrie

Chairman Lowrie seeing a quorum called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Pam Watkins verified the quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jack Dunn made a motion to approve the agenda; Pam Watkins provided the second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Chairman Lowrie calls for a motion to adopt the minutes from the April Board Meeting. Pam Watkins made a motion to adopt the minutes; Marty Callahan provided the second.

Motion carried unanimously

Chairman Lowrie addresses Sunshine Laws.

Board Member Brian Rittenberry read prepared written statement addressing false allegations made on social media by the public.

Vendor Selection Committee

A motion was made by Brian Rittenberry to explore creation of a Vendor Selection Committee to review and provide recommendations regarding vendor participation in Downtown Live events and related event logistics.

The committee is intended to serve in an advisory capacity and may include community members, business owners, residents, and event stakeholders.

Discussion included:

- Existing vendor commitments for the current event season.
- Potential implementation timelines.
- The committee's role in assisting with vendor selection and event planning decisions.

Motion: Brian Rittenberry - Explore creation of a Vendor Selection Committee.

Second: Morgan Watson

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Action: Motion approved. Formation details, membership, and implementation timeline will be determined by the DDA.

Economic Vitality: Ongoing efforts to organize and update business contact information.

- Development of improved distribution lists for communication with downtown businesses.
- Continued work on survey outreach and business engagement efforts.

Design: A meeting is scheduled with local high school art students regarding downtown public art installations.

- Final design selections and recommendations will be presented to the Board following review.

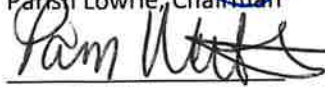
Organization: The Board discussed the possibility of establishing term limits for DDA members.

Discussion included:

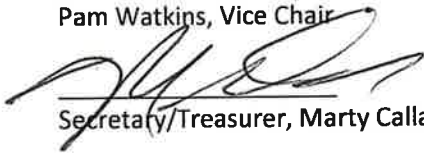
- Potential limits of two consecutive four-year terms.



Parish Lowrie, Chairman



Pam Watkins, Vice Chair



Secretary/Treasurer, Marty Callahan