

MINUTES

JOINT CITY COUNCIL, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MONROE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING AUGUST 21, 2014

A joint meeting of the Forsyth City Council, the Downtown Development Authority, the Monroe County Development Authority, the Monroe County Commissioners, and the Chamber of Commerce was held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the old Monroe Academy building on Highway 41.

Present for the City Council was Mayor John Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Jones, and Melvin Lawrence. Councilman Eric Wilson was unable to attend the meeting. Also present was City Clerk/Interim City Administrator, Janice Hall. The Forsyth City Council was not formally called to order but a quorum was present.

Present for the Downtown Development Authority was Chairman Bonnie Barker, Authority members Ralph Ogletree, Paul Jossey, Greg Goolsby, Lee Roberts, Ken Bowman, and Shirley Henderson. The DDA was not formally called to order but a quorum was present.

Mr. Bill Bazemore, Chamber of Commerce Board Member, reviewed a presentation (copy of presentation is attached to the official minutes) regarding the restructuring of the Chamber of Commerce to include the formation of a new board to oversee and appoint the CEO over the newly structured Chamber; bringing the MainStreet program under the Chamber and merging it with the Tourism; and creating the organization of the CEO with four "legs" under it – MainStreet/Tourism Manager, Events Manager, Member Services Manager, and Project Manager. Mr. Bazemore introduced members of the Chamber Study Group that has met over the last couple of months to develop this restructuring plan – group members were Greg Goolsby, Loraine Khoury, Thomas White, Janice Hall, Anita Cauthen, Mike Bilderback, Larry Evans, Brad Edenfield, Craig Stephens, Butch Copeland, Tiffany Andrews, and Bill Bazemore. The presentation included a question and answer period, which consisted of several questions from the members present regarding various aspects of the proposed plan. Mr. Bazemore stated that this restructuring would be for a 2-year trial period and at the end of that time, the success or failure of the plan will be reevaluated.

Mr. Bazemore concluded the presentation by asking each entity to review and discuss the information presented with the understanding that a formal request would be submitted from the Chamber of Commerce asking the support of each entity by September 17, 2014.

None of the boards present called their meetings to order and no action was taken by any board present for the presentation. The presentation was concluded at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by: Janice L. Hall, City Clerk