

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Draft

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

9:00 AM

**City Hall
110 Academy Street**

Downtown Development Authority

1. Call to Order***Board Members Present:***

Jennifer Hughes (Chair)
Ashley Carlile
Lee Oliver
Cory Wilson

City Staff & Council:

Bill Grant, Mayor
Dwayne Waterman, City Council
Billy Peppers, City Manager
Nathan Ingram, Asst. City Manager
Velinda Hardy, Downtown Development Manager
Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager
Kristin Norton Green, Theatre Events & Facilities Director
Kevin Turner, Community Development Director
Mary Baker, Community Development

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Ingram requested the Board to amend the agenda to include an item under Old Business as Item, 7A, an update on the Downtown Fire Station

Member Oliver moved to approve the agenda as amended; Member Carlile seconded the motion; Motion carried.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes**A. Downtown Development Authority Draft Minutes - July 9, 2025**

Attachments: [Minutes - Downtown Development Authority - July 9, 2025](#)

Member Oliver moved to approve the minutes; Member Hughes seconded the motion; Motion carried.

B. Downtown Development Authority Draft Minutes - July 17, 2025

Attachments: [Minutes - Downtown Development Authority - July 17, 2025](#)

Member Oliver moved to approve the minutes; Member Hughes seconded the motion; Motion carried.

4. Public Input

There was no public input.

5. Financials

Nathan Ingram provided the Board with updated financials through July.

6. New Business

None

7. Old Business**A. North Street Gateway Redevelopment Project: Review and Possible Approval of Proposal Contract with Goodwyn Mills Cawood for Architectural and Engineering Services**

Update on the Downtown Fire Station – Mr. Ingram provided the Board with an update on the Downtown Fire Station project, indicating that initial design should be completed by September 1st. He also provided the Board with an agreement with Blue Shield Environmental for Hazardous Material Mitigation and Interior Demolition, asking the Board to consider approval. Member Oliver moved to approve signing the agreement; Member Carlile seconded; Motion carried.

North Street Gateway Redevelopment Project: Review and Possible Approval of Proposal Contract with Goodwyn Mills Cawood for Architectural and Engineering Services – Mr. Ingram provided the Board with an update on GMC's proposal. The Board, along with members of staff, discussed the project and the proposal, with many noting their comments on the project. Member Carlile moved to approve the agreement and approve signing the contract with GMC for Architectural and Engineering Services; Member Wilson seconded; Motion carried.

B. North Street Gateway Redevelopment Project: Discussion of the Project and Its Impact on the Properties

The Board discussed the residential and commercial tenants of the property on which the project will be constructed. There was discussion and consideration on providing those tenants with a firm date on which they will be required to vacate the property. It was determined, after thorough discussion, that City Management should issue a letter to the tenants providing them with a date to vacate the property by January 31, 2026. It was also requested that management reach out to the individual tenants and offer an opportunity to meet individually to discuss their needs and hear their comments and concerns. City Management will consider holding meetings on site with those tenants who request such meeting and bring back comments and resulting recommendations to the DDA at their September and/or October meetings.

C. Discussion and Update on the Hickory Flat Highway Gateway Project

City Management provided the Board with an updated timeline regarding the project. It was noted that the tenants of the Canton Village Shopping Center were provided until September 30, 2025 to vacate. Testing of the property and demolition would commence shortly thereafter. An engineering contract on this property is before the Council currently.

D. Update on Purchase of Property

Closing on the two properties (301 & 351 Marietta Rd.) was scheduled for August 13th @ 11am. The previous owner provided those tenants with a notice to vacate by September 16, 2025. It was noted that the DDA will extend that date to coincide with the notice to vacate provided to the Canton Village Shopping Center; September 30, 2025. These buildings will be included in the contract to demolish along with the Canton Village Shopping Center.

8. What's Going On in Canton!

Velinda Hardy, along with additional comments from Kristin Norton Green, provided the Board with an update on upcoming events in the Canton Area.

9. Board Introduced Items

None

10. Adjourn

Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting.