

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Downtown Advisory Committee met in Regular Session on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019** at 6:00pm in City Hall Courtroom with Vice Chair Szary presiding. Hoyle read the Committee's mission statement.

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Denis de St. Aubin Jr., Tim Booras, Wren Farrar, Jason Hoyle, Richard Szary, Cecil Wilson

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jackie Adams, Loretta Kivett, April Weaver

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Jack Meadows, and Interim Permit Specialist Justin Bridges

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauran Hoders (Past Member)

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by de St. Aubin Jr. to approve the agenda, seconded by Farrar, unanimously approved.

CONSENT

A motion was made by Booras to approve the September 24, 2019 minutes, seconded by de St. Aubin Jr., unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1) Business/Property Owner Update Letter (English/Spanish)

It was discussed that the committee could use the November 4, 2019 Board meeting information to craft the letter. de St. Aubin and Hoders will draft the letter.

2) Downtown Map

It was agreed by the committee to keep the Downtown Map as is.

3) New Priority List of Recommendations Due October 2020

- a) The Landscape Maintenance Plan. It was noted that this is already covered by the town budget and is handled by Public Works. Meadows will contact Keel and McCorquodale to come in and talk with the committee in a future meeting.
- b) Booras will call McCorquodale concerning sidewalk repair on Chatham Avenue.
- c) de St. Aubin Jr. will contact a potential source for pressure washing the sidewalks downtown.
- d) On street parking regulations-involves all Town departments.
- e) Farrar will work on the Building Rehab Grants. Examples given were from Eden and Lenoir, NC. The funding would come from Town resources.
- f) It was noted that having someone from the NC Main Street Community come and speak to the committee would be a beneficial educational step. Meadows also recommended that the committee should look into learning about Historical Preservation. Examples given were New Bern and Shelby, NC as cities who have followed NC's Historical Preservation guidance to create economic development downtown.

- g) Hoyle will look into procuring someone to do a Streetscape Plan for Chatham Avenue, potentially a local university. The Streetscape Plan is noted in the Downtown Master Plan 2013 for Siler City.
- 4) **Priority List of Recommendations from October 2019 to be Carried Over**
- a) The Town Board will be providing direction on the Committees 10 recommendations at the November 4 Town Board meeting.
 - b) Eliminate rolling garbage carts where Town dumpsters are available. McCorquodale is looking into this.
 - c) Install crosswalk markings at the intersection along Chatham Avenue. This was budgeted for \$2,000. NCDOT has agreed to cover the cost of crosswalk markings. The Committee provided a list of streets in priority order (Chatham Ave., Raleigh St, 2nd Ave).
- 5) **Economic Development Strategic Plan Steering Committee**
The Town Board wants to put a Steering Committee together. The purpose of creating a Steering Committee is to have a vision for economic development. The Steering Committee would be involved in creating an economic development strategic development plan. November the 8th, 2019 is the deadline for submitting a letter for those committee members who are interested in joining the Steering Committee.
- 6) **Temporary Street Closings**
The committee discussed that notifications of any street closings for Downtown events should be sent out. It was discussed that a policy should be implemented to notify land and business owners of any street closings.
- 7) **Chatham County Tier Study**
Booras informed the committee that Chatham County is a Tier 3 County and that this prevents Siler City from receiving a variety of potential funding possibilities. The Tier system exists to help distressed counties. A desire to see exceptions within the Tier system was mentioned, as Siler City is a Tier 1 community. This has led to reduced funding for the Town's CAM site from the Rural Infrastructure Authority. The county's Tier 3 status also means that state incentives for potential business owners in Siler City would only allow these businesses to qualify for Tier 3 state incentives. The point being, the Tier system is unbalanced and unfair for many economically distressed communities like Siler City within Chatham County. The article, *Hidden Distress: Siler City, NC* was emailed to the committee for further reading.

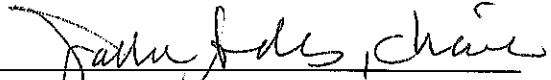
FUTURE BUSINESS

Meeting Calendar 2019: November 26, no meeting in December.

Meeting Calendar 2020: For the calendar year of 2020 it was unanimously agreed upon that the Downtown Advisory Committee meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.


ADJOURNMENT

With no further business a motion was made by Hoyle to adjourn at 7:17pm, seconded by de St. Aubin Jr. & unanimously approved.



Jackie Adams, Chair

ATTEST:



Justin Bridges, Interim Permit Specialist