

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Newton Downtown SSMID Board**  
**Via Zoom & City Website: [www.newtongov.org](http://www.newtongov.org)**

*September 14, 2021*

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: R. O'Brien; J. Maki; J. Prendergast

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Armstrong, Development Specialist; Erin Yeager, Newton Main Street; Jody Rhone, Public Works Director

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A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:18 a.m. by Chair O'Brien.

**Review of Minutes.** The Minutes of the SSMID Board Meeting on August 10, 2021 were reviewed and approved. MOTION by Maki, seconded by Prendergast. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

**Finance Report.** The August 31, 2021 Finance Report was reviewed and approved. MOTION by Prendergast, seconded by Maki. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

**New Business.**

*a. Other.* O'Brien noted that the sidewalk around the Jocko's building is in bad shape and Prendergast stated that the pedestrian alleyway between Maid Rite and the law office is also very rough. Jody Rhone explained that maintenance of a commercial sidewalk is the business owner's responsibility and said that he would pass on the complaints to Community Services. Rhone also stated that the City is working on a new sidewalk code.

**Old Business.**

*a. Jasper County Removal of Bunkers & Flagpoles – Courthouse Square.* Yeager said that Jasper County Supervisor Talsma indicated that nothing would be done on this project until Spring '22. O'Brien stated that the SSMID board should provide input to the Board of Supervisors in the form of a "wish list" for the type of replacement amenities that SSMID would like to see. Maki: "Perhaps removable benches around square that could be taken out in winter." Rhone: "County will contract for the removal of the bunkers & flagpoles and replace with concrete slabs. City will approve the work according to code and make sure that the ADA code is strictly adhered to. Requests are already coming in for donations of the city-owned flagpoles. In any case, all additional amenities in the bunker/flagpole area will need to be approved by the County." O'Brien asked that Board members bring ideas for the bunker/flagpole areas to the October meeting and create a "wish list" to present to the County. Further discussion on this item was tabled until the October board meeting.

*b. Additional SSMID Projects.* Additional Christmas Lights on poles around the Courthouse Square – Prendergast agreed to seek a quote on purchasing 9 additional decorations, plus installation, for the downtown square area. A vote by the board will be necessary to approve the purchase and installation of the decorations, which will need to occur before the end of September in order for City Council to formally authorize expenditure of SSMID funds for the project at their October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. O'Brien will send out an informal poll on a day/time for a Special Board Meeting to approve the purchase as soon as the quotes are received. Based on the board members' discussion, O'Brien noted that there were two other potential "Additional SSMID Projects" – Sersland Park renovations and Flower Pots/Benches/Alley Improvements.

*c. Other.* None.

**“Lightning Round” updates from community partner organizations:**

MAIN STREET - Yeager reported that the Farm-to-Table Dinner on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> would feature Lemon Tree Tea House catering and would be held at Baqara and the Magnetic Main Street Fundraiser was definitely on for Thurs., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Homecoming Parade.

DDNA - Prendergast reported that the Fall Open House would be held on Friday & Saturday, September 17-18, and that downtown retailers would be open and offering specials, treats, etc.

**Meeting Adjournment:** At 9:18 a.m. - MOTION by Prendergast, seconded by O’Brien. Voice Vote (Unanimous).