

Minutes of Meeting
Newton Downtown SSMID Board
Via Zoom & City Website: www.newtongov.org

January 11, 2022

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: R. O'Brien; J. Maki; A. Leber; M. Pryke

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Armstrong, Development Specialist; Erin Yeager, Newton Main Street Executive Director

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair O'Brien.

Review of Minutes. The Minutes of the SSMID Board Meeting on December 14, 2021 were reviewed and approved. MOTION by Pryke, seconded by Maki. Voice Vote (Unanimous).

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

New Business.

a. Christmas Decorations Insurance Claim. Maki, speaking as the insurance agent for the City, explained that during the Dec. 15th windstorm, the Christmas Decoration on the lightpole next to Cappy's Tire fell on a parked vehicle, causing damage. Since the Decoration was properly installed, it was determined to be an "Act of God" and did not result in liability for the City. The vehicle owner's comp. insurance policy covered the damages.

b. Other. O'Brien said that the SSMID board should revisit the idea of operating under the Newton Main Street program. Projects undertaken by SSMID are often in tandem or redundant with Main Street projects for the downtown district. O'Brien asked for comment from the other board members. Maki agreed with O'Brien's comments and Leber said it would reduce inefficiencies. Pryke commented that the goal for SSMID should be to work with Main Street, but that the board should remain independent since SSMID is an appointed commission of the City and is beholden to the SSMID district taxpayers. Yeager agreed to set up a meeting with representatives from Main Street Iowa to discuss the matter with Chair O'Brien and any other board member interested in attending. Discussion of a proposal for SSMID to operate under Main Street will be included in a subsequent SSMID board meeting agenda.

Old Business.

a. Update: Attachment of hardware for Christmas Decorations. Tabled until the February SSMID board meeting.

b. Update: Poll of Property/Business Owners. Armstrong had included the updated report with the Agenda packet. There were no questions from commissioners.

c. SSMID projects – FY 21-22: Trash Receptacles (Dodd's). Armstrong reported on his conversation with Liz Dodd of Dodd's Trash Hauling & Recycling, where she stated that no additional fees would be charged for servicing additional trash receptacles in the downtown district. She recommends that the SSMID board purchase trash receptacles similar to those that are directly in front of the Chamber of Commerce office on 1st Avenue West. Armstrong agreed to check out the cost and availability of the preferred trash receptacles and report back to the SSMID board during the February 8th meeting.

d. *Other.* None.

“Lightning Round” updates from community partner organizations: Yeager reported that the Newton Main Street district had been expanded to encompass Legacy Plaza and the area between the original district and Legacy Plaza. Maki inquired if the SSMID district could likewise be expanded and Armstrong agreed to pose that question and report on the response.

Meeting Adjournment: At 8:38 a.m. – MOTION by O’Brien, seconded by Pryke. Voice Vote (Unanimous).