

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. (2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2005

TITLE: A Discussion of the Downtown Development Commission Composition and Charge

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| DEPARTMENT: N/A | PUBLIC HEARING: No |
| ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Downtown Development Commission (DDC) Revised and Current Charges C. DDC Membership List | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Stewart, 918-7315 |

PURPOSE

At the May 3, 2005 Board of Aldermen meeting, the Board requested a discussion of the Downtown Development Commission composition and charge.

INFORMATION

On April 12, the Board of Aldermen conducted a work session to continue its discussion on economic development that began at the 2005 Board retreat and to plan for ways to establish a niche in the regional economy and to diversify the tax base. Three potential action steps on ways to begin developing an economic development strategy were presented:

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| Action Step 1: | Hire a consultant to assist the Board in identifying and analyzing choices and developing a roadmap |
| Action Step 2: | Change the name of the Downtown Development Commission to the Economic Sustainability Commission and expand the charge |
| Action Step 3: | Have a workshop speaker such as Richard Florida to be co-sponsored by a number of organizations |

The Board appointed Mayor Nelson and Aldermen McDuffee and Gist to a subcommittee to review the proposed action steps and to suggest strategies to accomplish the steps. It also asked staff to add language suggested by Alderman Zaffron to the proposed revised Downtown Development Commission charge (Attachment B-1, in bold). The subcommittee met on April 20, 2005 and made a report to the Board on May 3.

At the May 3 Board meeting, Mayor Nelson requested that the Board review the composition and charge of the Downtown Development Commission at the May 10, 2005 worksession.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the resolution which changes the Downtown Development Commission name and revises the composition and charge.