

**Minutes  
Business Advisory Committee**

January 16, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

**Members**

**Present:**

Jerry Hodge  
Jeremy Petty  
Tom Warlick  
John Stiver

Don Essary  
Nick Martin  
Joe Beaman  
Neal Powell

**Members**

**Absent:**

Javier Chavez

**Others Present:** Mayor Anne Stedman

**Staff Present:** Rob Powell, Commercial Development Coordinator

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**Item 1:**

**Chairman John Stiver** opened the meeting.

**Item 2: Minutes**

No minutes were submitted for approval at this meeting.

**Item 3: Business Update**

**Rob Powell, Commercial Development Coordinator**, stated that three businesses were open or due to open soon: Blue Moon Tavern, Marie & Twannette's Bakery, Godoy Jewelry (new location), and Carolina Vines Wine Bar.

**Item 4: Property Tax and Sales Tax Study**

**Rob Powell** presented statistics on property tax and sales tax revenue for the City of Newton and explained what growth factors could increase the revenue from each, based on the methods of assessment, collection and distribution for each type of tax.

**Item 5: Planning for the First Annual Meeting for Newton Businesses (February 7, 2013)**

Chairman Stiver gave an overview of planning for the Annual Business Meeting which included:

- Agenda for the meeting
- Comment card and contact information
- Invitations (utility bill, public notice and personal)
- Special invite

- Refreshments
- Costs
- Annual Business Advisory Committee Report

Don Essary said he already had 18 people committed to attend. Jerry Hodge said he would work on questions for the business survey. Mayor Stedman said she wanted the meeting well-publicized and to invite the media.

**Item 6: Calendar for Meetings in 2013**

**Chairman Stiver** presented a schedule of Business Advisory Committee meetings for 2013 and stated that there would be no July meeting. Mr. Stiver stated that Brad Guth, City of Lincolnton's Business and Community Development Director would be the guest speaker at the next meeting, in February.

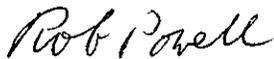
**Item 7: Active Store Front Policy**

The committee briefly discussed the meaning and practicality of an Active Store Front Policy for downtown. Jeremy Petty said that there should be a way to encourage pedestrian-oriented retail businesses to the downtown and to discourage businesses that are open for limited schedules, such as funeral homes, for example. The desirability of promoting downtown residential use on the second floors of stores was discussed along with the impact on downtown parking.

**Item 8: Adjournment**

With no further business, Chairman Stiver adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Powell  
Recording Secretary