



**City of Mount Airy Downtown / Small Business Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

February 17, 2021 - 12:00PM  
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

<b>Member(s) Present:</b>			
Marie Wood (Chair)	Lizzie Morrison	Teresa Leiva	Nathan Bond
Eve Trotter			
<b>Member(s) Absent:</b>			
Holli Nowlin	Will Sheppard	Lenise Lynch	Christopher Cook
<b>Staff &amp; Guest(s) Present:</b>			
Carolyn Hegler (Host)	Andy Goodall	Barbara Jones	
Zane Poindexter (Guest Speaker)		Chris Fallaw (Guest Speaker)	

- I. Call to Order**  
Commissioner Wood called the meeting to order at 12:00PM.
- II. Introduction of Guest Speakers**  
Ms. Wood introduced Fire Chief Zane Poindexter and Fire Marshal Chris Fallaw to the committee.
- III. Downtown Development & Fire Code Q&A**  
Ms. Wood began the Q&A by introducing development issues in the vicinity of Market Street, Franklin Street and Willow Street. Ms. Morrison asked the speakers thoughts on removing six (6) parking spaces on Market Street to use as a permanent pedestrian area with a barrier and landscaping. Chief Poindexter did not see an issue with the spaces being removed. Fire Marshal Fallaw is ok with the removal of spaces as long as the road width is not reduced any further (width required for ladder truck) and that any barriers that are used

can be moved by a single person in an event there is a fire or medical call in that area. Ms. Morrison indicated that the barriers would not be permanent.

Chief Poindexter and Fire Marshal Fallaw spoke in depth about the rules and standards for events and festivals in Downtown.

Ms. Wood asked the speakers about the pros/cons of developing upper-floor residential in the Downtown district. Chief Poindexter spoke about the variables that pertain to the Fire Code and Downtown development (I.e. exits, square footage, sprinklers, alleyways, fire escapes, etc.). He spoke about the Fire Department's recommendations to hire an architect or engineer to design a set of plans for Fire Review prior to development. Fire Marshall Fallaw spoke about how upper-floor residential is a hot topic and is tricky because there are no set parameters in the Code. He used an example of a flow chart to explain examples of different variations and what would be required for one path is different than another. One example was how a project where developing more than two (2) units in a building requires additional code compliance such as a second stairwell, etc. He reiterated the need to hire a design professional prior to attempting development.

The committee discussed traffic calming devices (I.e. raised crosswalks, one vs. two-way traffic) along Willow Street. The guest speakers both agreed that raised crosswalks would be great in that area. They also spoke about the need to use Willow Street for fire and medical calls north of Downtown, so any change in traffic pattern should keep that in mind.

Mr. Goodall asked the speakers if they saw any issue with making Franklin Street (between N. Main Street & Franklin Street parking lot) one-way. The only negative that Fire Marshal Fallaw could see was that the Fire Department uses that segment for fire and medical calls on N. Main Street between Franklin Street and W. Pine Street. Fire Marshal Fallaw would research the amount of calls in that segment.

Ms. Wood asked the committee if they would prefer to meet every two (2) weeks. Many of the members have not been able to commit to weekly meetings. Due to lack of members to answer, Ms. Wood would send out an email to the group to solicit thoughts.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

At 12:55PM, Ms. Wood adjourned the meeting.