

MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2024
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Patrick Duhon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Elliot Broussard led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Duhon requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Claire Broussard, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Linda Vincent, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Anita Dupuis, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent: Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Jacob Landry

The following guests were present: Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA, and Mr. David Dupuis

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments regarding any of the items on the agenda.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 22, 2024, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Anne Falgout. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Richard Guilbeaux presented the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$681.87. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kayla Link provided the board with her May administrative report, and it was read by Mr. Duhon. In the report, Ms. Link noted that she completed three visits with existing businesses and met with one new business start-up. She updated the board on the existing business prospects/projects and reviewed existing opportunities available to the parish. She noted she has been managing several ongoing community projects and served as a panelist for the American Manufacturing Communities Coalition Roadshow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There was no update from the Transition Committee.

Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board that the Workforce Development Committee has scheduled the lunch event with the Vermilion Parish School Board on Thursday, June 27, 2024. This event would bring business leaders together with the school board and engage businesses to promote job opportunities for students in the career tech pathways. She also noted the committee is working with the Vermilion Chamber to hold a job fair on July 24, 2024.

Mr. Duhon led the report for the Sustainable Funding Committee. He presented the board with an invoice from the Secretary of State, in the amount of \$76,759.63, for the cost of the election and estimated costs of \$585.00 for fees needed to print and file related paperwork. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to approve payment of the invoice not exceeding the \$76,759.63 charged. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux then motioned the board to approve the payments of the estimated filing fees in the amount of \$585.00. Ms. Anne Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Lastly, Mr. Guilbeaux motioned the board to close VEDD's Special Projects account and move the funds, totaling \$146,806.14, to VEDD's operating account. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

There was no update on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux noted that the Hometown Revitalization Program Committee was still waiting for clarification on issues the Office of Community Development identified in the proposed project plans.

Ms. Falgout gave the update for the Communications and Promotions Committee. She noted that they are currently focusing on spreading the word about VEDD's ongoing programs.

There was no update from the Business and Industry Development Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Cormier noted that the Maurice Council has voted to move forward with the LDRC program and has asked Ms. Link to serve on the steering committee in an economic development role.

Ms. Claire Broussard noted that the Farmer's Appreciation Dinner will be held on June 20, 2024.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux informed the board of the need for a formal vote to allow him to speak to legal and accounting professionals about the processes needed for VEDD to cease operations at the end of the year. He asked for this to be added to the July agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Cormier informed the board that VEDA's 2023 Financial Review has been completed. She provided copies for the board members and noted that the CPA informed her that there were no issues that needed to be brought to the board.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that it is time to send out the yearly stakeholder invoices. Mr. Guilbeaux noted that several of our stakeholders will be facing budget issues this year and asked the board their thoughts about sending invoices to stakeholders knowing VEDD's plan to cease operations at the end of the year. Mr. Rivera suggested that the board send out letters thanking the investors for their past support and letting them know of VEDD's plans as well as information on possible state legislation that may be relevant to economic development. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to send letters of thanks to VEDD's supporters in place of the yearly invoices. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: The board members spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Ben Rivera, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary