

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 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. Duhon led the Pledge of Allegiance before he requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet and Ms. Linda Vincent

The following members were absent: Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Jacob Landry

The following guests were present: Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA,

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the September 25, 2024, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Nikki Vidos. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Nikki Vidos presented the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$427.85. 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.

Mr. Elliot Broussard entered the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Shari Cormier presented the board with a report showing the progress of the projects that she is currently working on. She informed the board that she will complete the first draft of the organization's retention records this week and that she is continuing to copy the office files to be able to access them after the hard copies have been destroyed according to the retention schedule. She noted that she was able to contact the Attorney General's office and received answers to the board's questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Vidos noted that she met with Ms. Cormier last week to answer any questions she had and will continue to meet with her every other week. She also noted that Mr. Richard Guilbeaux will give an update on the organization's closing process later in the meeting.

Ms. Claire Broussard gave the update for the Workforce Development Committee. She noted that the planned presentation to the Rotary Club has not yet been rescheduled, but the Chamber is moving forward and has scheduled a small business workshop on October 30, 2024.

There was no update from the Hometown Revitalization Program Committee.

There was no update from the Communications and Promotions Committee.

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

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board that she had tentatively scheduled the stakeholder event that was discussed at the last meeting for November 21, 2024. She noted that One Acadiana was checking their schedules to ensure they can attend. She asked the board for a budget of \$500.00 for appetizers and drinks to serve at the event. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to approve the \$500.00 request. Ms. Anne Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux shared the information he received while researching closing the organization for the Transition Committee. He noted that our organization's by-laws state that a 2/3 vote from our board along with a 1-year wait is needed. He also stated that the organization could be dissolved legislatively. He suggested that the organization both vote to close and file legislatively, in case issues arise with one or the other. Mr. Guilbeaux then motioned the board to adopt a resolution to dissolve the Vermilion Economic Development District because of a lack of sustainable funding. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion. Ms. Nikki Vidos motioned the board to go into the executive session. Mr. Joshua Anderson duly seconded the motion, and the board went into executive session. After their discussion, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to exit the executive session. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and the board returned to regular session. Mr. Duhon reminded the board of Mr. Guilbeaux's motion, and Mr. Rivera's second, to adopt a resolution to dissolve the Vermilion Economic Development District. He then asked for a roll call vote. Voting yes were Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Ms. Anne Falgout, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Claire Broussard and Ms. Nikki Vidos. There were no votes against. The motion was carried with 2/3 of the board voting to close the organization one year from this date.

Mr. Guilbeaux then motioned the board to approve a resolution that allows the Executive Committee, in the absence of a board quorum, the right to approve expenditures as aligned in the approved budget for the duration of the dissolution process. Mr. Ben Rivera 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, November 13, 2024.

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

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary