

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2019
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. The meeting was held in the Judge's Library, on the second floor of the Courthouse in Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Christine Trahan, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Tammy Gordon, and Mr. Ruben Rivera

The following members were absent:

Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Gerrod Brasseur and Mr. Aidan Broussard

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD and Mr. Donald Sagrera, Tech-Vermilion Fresh Water District

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Jason Picard, duly seconded by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$866.60. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Jason Picard and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

Mr. Jacob Landry entered the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a written report detailing the accomplishments made by the VEDA office in the month of February. She discussed several items of interest with the board which included: answering 12 requests for information, conducting six business visits, hosting the first quarter Employer Tune-up and launching one new expansion project. She also made a presentation to the Abbeville City Council and noted that VEDA was mentioned in several media stories.

Mr. Patrick Duhon entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that VEDA will be hosting five events in the coming months. The Employer Workshop, Destination Downtown, Job Fair and the 55 X 25 event are all scheduled in April, while the Second Quarter Employer Tune-up will be held in May or June. Ms. Falgout requested a \$350.00 budget for appetizers and printed materials for the Destination Downtown event as well as a \$150.00 budget to pay for breakfast or lunch at the Employer Tune-up. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to spend up to \$350.00 on the Destination Downtown event and up to \$150.00 on the Employer Tune-up event. Ms. Tammy Gordon seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried by the board.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with the Public Records Request Form that she was asked to develop at the February meeting. This form will be uploaded to the VEDA website and will be available to anyone requesting information in the future. Ms. Megan Landry-LaLande motioned the board to approve the request form as presented. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Donald Sagrera gave a presentation to the board regarding the Tech-Vermilion Fresh Water District in anticipation of the millage renewal that is slated on the May 4, 2019 ballot.

In response to a board member being asked for an official response about the proposed Abbeville sales tax, Ms. Falgout shared Mr. Calvin Woodruff's legal opinion regarding our board members speaking on behalf of our organization when asked about a piece of legislation, a law, an election, etc. The board elected to have Mr. Rivera communicate to the inquiring parties that VEDA would not be providing an official comment.

Mr. Jacob Landry and Mr. Jason Picard left the meeting.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that one of the options for the Metropolitan Expressway Commission's proposed loop goes through both Vermilion and Iberia parishes. She stated that she would like to partner with Mr. Mike Tarantino of the Iberia Industrial Development Foundation to have a representative give a presentation to inform Vermilion and Iberia's elected officials and economic developers of the locations of on/off ramps in order to determine if there would be an economic benefit for our residents or if it would hinder economic growth. The board agreed and asked Ms. Falgout to move forward with the meeting.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she had received an email from Mr. Robert Greer regarding the Old Post Office Building. As a representative of the group hoping to convert the building into a community center, Mr. Greer wanted feedback on how VEDA might utilize the building. Ms. Falgout asked the board's opinion on how she should respond, as she felt that the building could be of great use as both office and meeting space. The board agreed and prompted Ms. Falgout to respond to Mr. Greer's email to let him know of our interest to help with the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout provided the board with an updated funding report and noted that the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce has voted to table their contribution request until later in their fiscal year.

Mr. Rivera noted that he and Ms. Falgout are meeting with the USDA Rural Development State Director, Dr. Castille, to gain insight on how to pursue initiatives to support agriculture in Vermilion Parish from the state level.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux asked Ms. Falgout about the video that is being produced. Ms. Falgout stated she has sent the video back for more revisions and that she will expedite the process.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, duly seconded by Mr. Patrick Duhon and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary