

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Elliot Broussard.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent:

Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry and Mr. Gerrod Brasseux

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, and Ms. Rebecca Shirley, One Acadiana

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Aidan Broussard entered the meeting.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

Ms. Rebecca Shirley updated the board on One Acadian's progress as they enter their fifth year of operation. She noted that their focus for 2020 will be business development and business growth, along with an outreach to small and minority owned business. She thanked Ms. Falgout for bringing to their attention a monthly webinar series offered by International Economic Development that One Acadiana was able to purchase and offer to economic developers in the surrounding parishes.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard, and unanimously carried by the board.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$610.01. Upon motion by Ms. Tammy Gordon, duly seconded by Ms. Megan Lalande and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a list of accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of December. These included: conducting 1 business visit, answering 2 requests for information, assisting 2 jobseekers with their search and working with 3 business prospects/projects to

meet their specific requests. She collaborated with each municipality to create new Doing Business Guides for each community and populated the LED/Entergy Site Selection database with 27 Vermilion Parish Properties. Ms. Falgout also provided the board with a review of 2019. She noted items of interest which included: 32 business visits, answered 145 inquiries, attended 7 ribbon cuttings, managed 11 retention projects, reached out to 32 new businesses, counseled 15 pre-ventures and worked with 11 prospects.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on Prospect Skin. She noted that she is still waiting to hear from the client regarding the bank's decision.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that her LIDEA Membership is up for renewal. She presented pricing that included the membership fee and annual conference registration fee for \$425.00. Ms. Tammy Gordon motioned the board to pay \$425.00 total for the membership and conference fee. Ms. Roslyn White seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rivera presented the Sustainable Funding Committee's recommendations regarding long-term funding solutions. He noted that the committee reviewed VEDD legislation and has voted to recommend the board pursue a Universal Parcel Fee of \$10 for taxable parcels that are currently on issued tax bills. He stated that the committee felt that this was the most evenly distributed and business-friendly option. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to move forward and obtain language, put together with the help of legal representation, and 3 proposed parcel fee amounts to be voted on at the regularly scheduled February board meeting. He also asked for legal representation to be present at the February meeting. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion and it carried with opposition from Ms. Roslyn White.

#### BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Rivera asked the board members to share information about their communities. Ms. Roslyn White spoke about a possible micro retail development in Abbeville, the City's purchase of property adjacent to the Abbeville RV Park, the opening of the dog park at Lafitte Park and the new splash pad at A.A. Comeaux Park. Ms. Tammy Gordon informed the board that the Delcambre Farmers Market was mentioned in a "Top 20" article and noted that their seafood sales did well in December. Ms. Anita Dupuis invited everyone to enjoy the great restaurants in Gueydan. Ms. Megan Lalande spoke about the Vermilion Chamber's 100<sup>th</sup> year and their theme for 2020 "Think Vermilion". Mr. Ruben Rivera asked Ms. Falgout to send an invitation to the VEDD board members to attend the Vermilion Chamber's 100<sup>th</sup> celebration in an effort to support our business community.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, February 5, 2019 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

#### ADJOURN

Upon motion by Ms. Megan Lalande duly seconded by Mr. Aidan Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.