

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2020  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:11 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. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent:

Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Ms. Roslyn White

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, and Mr. Chris Lofstrom

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Chris Lofstrom introduced himself to the board as a member of the Leadership Vermilion class. He expressed his interest in increasing his engagement and was in attendance to learn more.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion made by Ms. Megan Lalande, duly seconded by Mr. Carlton Campbell, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$619.01. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Patrick Duhon and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

Mr. Gerrod Brasseux entered the meeting.

Mr. Ruben Rivera presented the insurance policy renewal cost to the board. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to approve the renewal of the three insurance policies at the total cost of \$2,938.86 and authorize Mr. Rivera to sign any required insurance forms. Ms. Tammy Gordon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a list of accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of January. These included: answering 9 requests for information, promoting 6 local job openings, assisting 1 jobseeker with their search and working with 3 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She worked with Mr. Andrew Dozier of Kiwanis of Abbeville on the Kiwanis Educator Award and with LA SeaGrant, Twin Parish Port and UL Lafayette on the upcoming

Seafood Summit. Ms. Falgout also attended the 55 X 25 Summit with workforce development colleagues and looks forward to coordinating VEDD's related activities into the initiative.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on Prospect Skin. She noted that the client received unfavorable terms from the bank regarding his loan application and he was not interested in going forward with this lending institution. She noted that she reminded him that the grant was contingent on the lender's approval. Mr. Ruben Rivera suggested giving the client a time limit to locate another lending institution or bring an alternative plan to the board. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to have the client notified that he will need to submit evidence of progress with another lender within the next 30 days or a reapplication would need to be completed before the board proceeds. Mr. Gerrod Brasseux duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. A progress update will be provided at the next board meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that SLCC has scheduled job fairs on March 18, 2020 in Abbeville and April 15, 2020 in Lafayette. She noted that their Lafayette job fair would be held on the same day as the Vermilion Parish Job Fair that VEDD hosts annually. She recommended that we assist SLCC with promoting and facilitating their job fair in lieu of doing our parish wide job fair and consider possibly hosting a job fair in the fall, if needed. Mr. Carlton Campbell motioned the board to have VEDD participate and coordinate with Gulf Area campus for SLCC's Abbeville job fair, instead of going forward with the Vermilion Parish Job Fair. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she has been invited to be a part of a panel at the Seafood Summit on March 11, 2020. Ms. Falgout will participate in a presentation with Geoff Stewart, author of the UL Lafayette/Meridian Institute Seafood Study about how economic development and other community partners can support the seafood industry with traditional and out-of-the-box services. She will also lend support to the UL Lafayette – LEED Center booth where participants will have Q&A access after the presentation. She noted that there will be no cost to VEDD for her attendance.

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Personnel Committee's recommendation regarding Ms. Anne Falgout's yearly review. The committee recommended continued employment without a salary change due to budget constraints. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Mr. Gerrod Brasseux duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rivera presented the board with the proposed language for the parcel fee proposition. He noted that it has been reviewed and approved by VEDD's legal counsel and had preliminary approval by the State Bond Commission. He stated that decisions need to be made as to the amount of the parcel fee and when collection would begin. Following a poll taken with the board members in attendance, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux motioned the board to accept the current proposition language and set the parcel fee at \$9.99 per parcel annually for ten years beginning in 2020 and ending in 2029. It was noted in the motion that depending on the Sheriff's tax roll collections it may need to begin in 2021 and end in 2030. Mr. Carlton Campbell duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. This proposal will be presented to the Police Jury at an upcoming meeting.

#### BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Rivera asked the board members to share information about upcoming events and opportunities relevant to the board. Ms. Tammy Gordon informed the board that the Delcambre Farmers Market will be starting in a few weeks. Mr. Jeremy Lartigue mentioned that Kaplan's Mardi Gras Parade is an upcoming attraction for locals and visitors. Ms. Anita Dupuis mentioned that the Mardi Gras Ball in Gueydan was taking place over the weekend. Mr. Gerrod Brasseux informed the board that he was hosting cooking classes at Brasseux's Hardware to bring awareness to his locations and keep spending in the parish. Ms. Megan Lalande and Mr. Ruben Rivera spoke about the Vermilion Chamber's State of Vermilion Breakfast and noted that it will include updates from each of Vermilion Parish's mayors. Ms. Falgout was asked to distribute information about the event to the board.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

#### ADJOURN

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

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Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande  
Secretary