

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2020
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM. The meeting was held via teleconference with access to the general public per guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

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. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Gerrod Brasseur, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Dexter Callahan and Ms. Roslyn White

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Mr. Jeremy Lartigue

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD and Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ms. Roslyn White entered the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 6, 2020 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard, 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 \$836.75. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Patrick Duhon and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout will provide her monthly Director's Report to the board electronically.

Ms. Roslyn White left the meeting. Mr. Aidan Broussard entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on Prospect Skin. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the client has not yet finalized any plans to go forward. After a discussion on this matter, Mr. Elliot Broussard motioned the board to notify the Prospect Skin that he has 90 days to provide the board with a proposal and an update on the loan status. Mr. Carlton Campbell duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande requested that a process be developed to improve the management of similar projects in the future.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that Mr. Reese Theriot of Fulcrum Sales and Marketing and Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick, with Impact Development have begun working on the Cattle/Beef Industry Feasibility Study. She noted that invoices for 50% of the total costs have been received from both companies, per their proposals, totaling \$15,000.00. She also noted that the cost will be reimbursed by grant funding. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to pay the cost associated with the Cattle/Beef Industry Study. This motion was duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard and unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board of the business assistance being offered and provided during this COVID-19 crisis. She noted that she set up a central repository on the VEDD website for businesses and residents to access information. The majority of questions have been about the two CARES Act (stimulus package) business programs: The Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Grant Program and the Payroll Protection Program. She also noted that she has increased communications online and via e-newsletters, provided individual assistance to 35 businesses and has provided information and resources to the municipalities and to local elected officials. She is organizing a proactive outreach program, also.

Mr. Gerrod Brasseux left the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a detailed resolution needed to file with the State Bond Commission. The resolution includes the proposed proposition, the date that the election will be canvassed, the board members authorized to sign paperwork, general directions of the process and notice requirements. After reviewing several areas Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to approve the resolution as written with added detail. Mr. Patrick Duhon dully seconded the motion and it unanimously carried. A roll call was taken: Yeas – Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Tammy Gordon and Mr. Dexter Callahan. Nays – None. Absent – Mr. Gerrod Brasseux, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Jason Picard and Mr. Jeremy Lartigue.

Mr. Elliot Broussard informed the board that the Vermilion Parish Sheriff, Mr. Mike Couvillon, is in support of bringing this parcel fee to the parish for a vote.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Elliot Broussard noted that the Sheriff's Office has scaled back activities and are taking calls and showing presence throughout the parish. Mr. Carlton Campbell noted that Abbeville Harbor and Terminal is also doing phone meetings and are operating under this new environment. Ms. Anita Dupuis stated that Gueydan was celebrating Easter and conducting City Council meetings per the state's guidance. She added that the School System was planning to contact students by phone and report cards are going out soon. Mr. Ruben Rivera informed the board that Lynn at the Vermilion Chamber is doing a great job keeping the members informed and that all upcoming events are on hold. Ms. Tammy Gordon stated that the Port is having weekly call meetings, the seafood vendors did a drive-thru sale at Randall's and sold out in an hour and a half, and since the Governor announced Delcambre Seafood Direct has been promoted online, they have sold more seafood than they could have imagined.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex pending any further stay-at-home orders or measures to protect meeting participants.

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