

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2020
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent:

Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Mr. Aidan Broussard, and Mr. Gerrod Brasseux

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.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Ruben Rivera asked if any of the board members were interested in filling the role of President or any of the other Executive Committee positions. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux nominated Mr. Ruben Rivera to continue his role as President. There was no second. Mr. Patrick Duhon then motioned the board to accept the current Executive Committee for another term. There were no objections from the Executive Committee members or other nominations for any of the positions. Ms. Tammy Gordon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Ruben Rivera will serve as President, Mr. Patrick Duhon will serve as Vice-President, Mr. Aidan Broussard will serve as Treasurer and Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande will serve as Secretary.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, 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 \$1,556.29. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

Ms. Shari Cormier presented VEDD's 2020 budget amendment to the board. Ms. Cormier noted that \$500.00 from Assistant's Salary was reallocated to Newspaper Advertising Requirements and Insurance, and \$20,350.00 in unused funds from several categories was reallocated to Business Development.

VEDD also added \$5,400.00 to the Business Development budget to cover a deficit caused by payments necessary because of the Beef/Cattle Study Grant, which have since been reimbursed. The total budget expenditures after these changes will be \$141,400.00. Ms. Cormier also noted that VEDD's income would need to be adjusted from \$136,000.00 to \$87,000.00. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the 2020 amended budget as documented with line-by-line changes. Mr. Jason Picard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that the engagement letter for VEDD's 2020 financial review (compilation) has been received from the auditors, Kolder, Slaven and Company, LLC. This document initiates the mandatory review and is used to notify the Louisiana Legislative Auditors that Kolder, Slaven and Company, LLC will be handling the process. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow Mr. Ben Rivera to sign the engagement letter. Mr. Patrick Duhon 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 November. She noted that the required processes associated with the November election took the majority of the staff's time. Other tasks included: conducting 1 visitation with a local business owner, assisting 1 jobseeker with resume updates, and building connections, answering 4 inquiries from existing businesses, and working with 2 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She hosted Small Business Saturday with 25 local businesses, providing spotlights on each, tips for holiday marketing, Shop Small swag, and perks for participation. She also worked on the Gueydan Winter Festival promotions and shared the state's new veteran program with board members from Acadiana Veterans Alliance.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout provided the board with two proposals from Site Location Partnership. She noted that both proposals were below the \$5,000.00 budgeted for 2021 and include the reimbursement for the services that were not preformed because of the COVID-19 shutdown. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to table discussions until the January board meeting. This motion was duly seconded by Ms. Tammy Gordon and unanimously carried. The board asked Ms. Falgout to negotiate specific deliverables associated with online site selector meetings and come back with a recommendation at the next meeting.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a list of the 25 businesses that participated in Small Business Saturday. She noted that VEDD partnered with Village Deaux to provide donuts to the participating merchants and with the Abbeville Meridional to provide discounted advertising. She also noted that VEDD will continue to promote these businesses throughout the holiday season.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a list of the meeting dates for the 2021 calendar year. VEDD will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex. The meeting dates are January 6, 2021, February 3, 2021, March 3, 2021, April 7, 2021, May 5, 2021, June 2, 2021, July 7, 2021, August 4, 2021, September 1, 2021, October 6, 2021, November 3, 2021, and December 1, 2020. Ms. Anita Dupuis motioned the board to approve the meeting dates and have them printed in the paper. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board of the process of canvassing the election votes for VEDD's parcel fee proposition on the November 3, 2020 election ballot. Ms. Anita Dupris motioned the board to adopt a resolution providing for the canvassing of the returns and declaring the results of the election. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION

A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the Parish of Vermilion, State of Louisiana on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, to authorize a parcel fee to be collected by the Vermilion Economic Development District therein.

Mr. Ruben Rivera then proceeded to examine the official tabulations of votes cast at the special election held in Vermilion Parish of Tuesday, November 3, 2020, to authorize a parcel fee and further proceeded to examine and canvass the returns and declare the results of the special election. There was a total of 8881 votes cast in favor of the parcel fee proposition and a total of 15537 votes cast against the parcel fee proposition, and it was further found and determined that there was a majority of 6656 votes cast against the parcel fee proposition. Therefore, Mr. Rivera declared that the Vermilion Parish Economic Development District's parcel fee proposition has failed by a majority of votes cast at the special election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with an updated funding report.

Mr. Ruben Rivera proposed that the board form a committee to vet funding options and to bring recommendations to the board at the February meeting. Elliot Broussard and Richard Guilbeaux volunteered to sit on the committee along with Mr. Rivera. Ms. Falgout and Ms. Cormier will attend the meetings to offer support to the committee. Mr. Rivera also suggested inviting members of the community to join the committee. Ms. Falgout suggested inviting Charlie Romaine, Chip Perrin, and Zach Dubois. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to accept the committee. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Tammy Gordon informed the board that the Delcambre Farmers Market will be held on Saturday from 9am – 1pm. They will be allowed 35 vendors with 150 – 200 shoppers. She also noted that they will now be allowed to serve food and alcohol.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary