

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2021
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:40 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. Patrick Duhon.

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, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent:

Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Mr. Gerrod Brasseur

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.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2, 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

Ms. Anne T. Falgout gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$606.01. 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 provided the board with a year-end review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office. These included: Reaching out to 57 new businesses, assisting 12 jobseekers with their search for employment, counseling 7 pre-ventures, maintaining over 50 locations on the site portal and LED Site Selection website, assisting 370 businesses with specific request and/or opportunities, and co-hosting 15 business webinars with 4,930 attendees. She maintained a "Disaster Relief" webpage with both hurricane relief and COVID-19 information and supplied 150 local businesses with the Main Street Recovery Program information. She also secured \$30,000 in grant funds for a feasibility study of Vermilion's Cattle/Beef industry, with 147 farmers participating in the survey phase of the project.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she has negotiated with Site Location Partnership to complete the remaining site selector meetings from the last contract prior to initiating a new agreement. She noted that SLP was in the process of scheduling 6 meetings for the week of January 25, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout presented the board with an invoice from LIDEA for their annual membership dues. She noted that the 2020 annual conference was canceled due to COVID-19, so they will be rolling her conference registration over to 2021. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to renew the membership and pay the \$250.00 invoice. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with her 2021 Goals Summary. She noted that this was the framework for what she hopes to accomplish for the year and rather than releasing an extensive action plan she would like to focus on big concepts. The summary categorizes all activities into four key areas: Business Development, Existing Business Assistance, Community Development, and Dedicated Economic Development Effort. She also noted that she would like to seek input from our stakeholders, as well as the municipalities and members of the public to address the parishes needs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the committee that was formed at the December meeting met on December 16th. She noted that the committee suggested communicating more with the public, building awareness of our organization, and revisiting the original stakeholders to discuss expectations moving forward. She also noted that the committee will reconvene later this month to continue the conversation.

Ms. Shari Cormier presented the board with the cost of the election along with the printing and filing fees required to complete the election process. She noted that the invoice from the Secretary of State for the election cost of \$2,992.63 would be arriving in January. She also noted the printing cost for the required paperwork (\$350.00), filing fees for the Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court (\$205.00) and filing fees for the Secretary of State (\$30.00). Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow the office to pay the election expenses as long as they do not exceed \$3,585.00. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Rivera ask the board members to give updates on their respective entities. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande spoke about the new water system in Maurice. Ms. Anita Dupuis spoke about Gueydan's successful Christmas in the Park and the upcoming Gueydan Winter Festival. Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that the Chamber will welcome new officers this month. Ms. Roslyn White informed the board that the City of Abbeville will launch a new website. Ms. Tammy Gordon noted that Delcambre will be holding another market on February 6, 2021.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

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