

Opelousas
Downtown Development District

Board Meeting

Meeting Date and Time: April 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: Virtual Meeting by way of Zoom

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge
- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of February 2020 Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Financial Report

Old Business:

- CLECO Lighting CEA
- CPEX Update

New Business

- ODDD Expenditures Policy
- Opelousas Repair Projects

The following members were present: Lena Charles, Keith Broussard, Don D'Avy, Pat Fontenot, Rob Hillard and Sarah Branton.

The following member was absent: Ogden Pitre

The following SLED staff members were in attendance: Bill Rodier/CEO-Director, Taylor Lormand/ED Specialist, and Glenda Carriere/ED Support Coordinator.

There were also present: Purvis Morrison/City of Opelousas and Melanie Lebouef/City of Opelousas Tourism

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of February 2020 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the February 2020 meeting minutes was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

Financial Report: Treasurer/Secretary Keith Broussard provided an overview of the February and March 2020 financials. A motion to accept the February and March 2020 financials was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Don D’Avy. Motion carried with no objection.

Old Business

CLECO Lighting CEA- Bill Rodier discussed that we are looking to partner with CLECO and the city to upgrade the existing lights to the LED lights. The board previously approved the cost to upgrade the lights on the existing poles throughout the district. CLECO was going to look at what it would cost if we wanted to do a replacement of more extensive or more decorative poles. A conference call took place with Bruce Gaudin, the attorney from CLECO, Sabrina Saling, Purvis Morrison, Mayor Julius Alsandor, and Bill Rodier to discuss the CEA of the lighting. A copy of the CEA was provided to the board for their review. The CEA will be on the city’s agenda for their meeting. A motion was made to authorize Chairwoman Lena Charles to sign the CEA on behalf of the board by Don D’Avy and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried with no objection.

CPEX Update: Taylor Lormand provided an overview of the most recent activities with CPEX. The first community meeting was held on March 3, 2020 at the Civic Center with about 160 attendees. This meeting went very well, and we received a great deal of input. We were scheduled to have 3 more public input meetings in April of 2020, but they had to be postponed. An Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 2 through teleconference, and it was the majority opinion to postpone everything at this time. Our goal is to be able to reach out to everyone. A discussion was made that until the restrictions are lifted, we would put the projects on hold. CPEX is still doing what they can on an interim basis. The boards were only out for 4 days, before coronavirus, so we do not have enough results or input. There were 2,500 copies of the survey made, and we had plans to hand these out to parents and students of Opelousas High and Opelousas Junior High. When all of these restrictions are lifted, we will continue on that path. Plans were also made to hand deliver this survey to small businesses to engage people on different levels. We still have conference calls with CPEX, but everything else is on hold.

New Business

ODDD Expenditures Policy: Chairwoman Lena Charles stated this was an item that was carried over from February’s agenda. Bill Rodier suggested that a conference call needs to take place with Craig Lebouef, Lena Charles, Keith Broussard, and himself to come to an agreement to relieve some of the burden of additional work on the office staff and board. We will get this resolved through an internal office agreement.

Opelousas Repair Projects: Bill Rodier stated that we are in unprecedented times. He stated how we are working with local and parish governments on how to safely bring businesses back online. The effects of COVID19 have created a huge economic impact on municipals, parishes, and statewide. The money being approved through the CARES Act is being dedicated to state governments and larger municipalities. Bill stated that he and our staff had many conversations with the Mayor and Purvis and that the City of Opelousas is facing financial challenges. He also stated we have the resources to support the city and help in these unprecedented times. Monies could be allocated to specific projects, such as the water projects within the City of Opelousas, which would allow the city to meet some of their critical obligations with the help of Opelousas Downtown Development District. Taylor

Lormand stated that Louisiana is getting 1.8 billion dollars from the CARES Act for municipalities and governments. Upon reviewing this 800-page document, she came across a significant amount of money in grants for economic development organizations. We reached out to a consultant firm to help us investigate how we could make this money available or just to get grants for future projects. She stated this money cannot be used for lost revenue, but only for expenses. This consultant group just sent us a proposal, but we were not ready to present it at this meeting. Some of the board members agreed that we need to review our Bylaws. Bill stated that a CEA would have to be created. Purvis Morrison will put a package together with more specific information on the project, before moving forward. A motion was made to move the Opelousas Repair Projects discussion to our next board meeting or form a special meeting by Don D'Avy and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

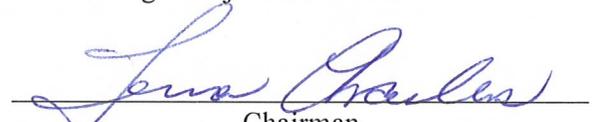
Glenda Carriere read William Jarrell's email regarding the plans for the sidewalks (TAP Grant). The plans have been revised per DOTD comments and have been re-submitted to DOTD for review.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 9:00 am at SLED.

There being no further business to come before the board, motion to adjourn was moved by Pat Fontenot, seconded by Rob Hillard and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 am.



Secretary



Chairman