



Board Meeting

Date and Time: January 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road,
Opelousas, LA 70570**

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of November 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

- ❖ ODDD Business Recognition Program-

- ❖ **Monthly Financial Report**
 - Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ **Executive Director's Report**
 - ❖ **Old Business:**
 - BIG Grant- Update
 - TAP Grant-Update
 - Keep Louisiana Beautiful Grant-Update Riser/Lebouef
 - Courthouse Phase II Lighting-Update
 - CPEX-City of Opelousas Ordinance – Update
 - New Life RFP – Status Update
 - Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements –
 - A.) Water / Wastewater Additions - Update
 - B.) Additional Turning Lanes -Update
 - South Park Master Plan- Update
 - CEA With City of Opelousas -Hold
 - Adams & Reese - Hold
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: ODDD Regular scheduled meeting on Friday, January 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. on the campus of SLED. The Public and any interested parties are welcome to attend. If you require reasonable accommodations, submit your request as far in advance as possible.

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Don D'Avy, Ogden Pitre, Sarah Branton, Pat Fontenot, Keith Broussard, Rob Hillard

The following members were present virtually: None

The following members were absent:

The following SLED members were present: Bill Rodier, Teresa Reaves, Janece Riser

Guests present in person were Mr. Don Dejean, Chairman of the SLED Board; Nathaniel Rougeau, Jesse Rougeau

Chairwoman Charles welcomed the board and opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

It was determined a quorum was present.

ODDD Small Business of the Month Recognition 2022: Chairwoman Charles announced Bayou State Tires as being recognized as the February ODDD Small Business of the Month. Chairwoman Charles introduced Mr. Nathaniel Rougeau who owns Bayou State Tires. Mr. Rougeau's son, Jesse was also in attendance to accept the award. Bayou State Tires, located at 621 W. Landry Street, Opelousas, has been in business since 2012.

Approval of December 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes: Chairwoman Lena Charles asked if everyone had a chance to look over the December 16, 2022, minutes. A motion to approve the December 22, 2022, minutes was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: The financial report was given by treasurer, Keith Broussard. Mr. Broussard reported that the financials were straight forward. A motion to approve December Financials as submitted was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded by Mr. Don D'Avy. Motion carried without objection.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a report regarding the downtown buildings and reported that there is some interest in the Federal Building. Mr. Rodier also reported on an apartment complex that will be going before the Louisiana Housing Commission for approval in February, the status of a new neighborhood getting ready to break ground, and a new fast-food restaurant that should be signing a deal in the next two weeks. Discussion ensued.

New Business:

Election of Officers:

A motion was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot to allow current slate of officers to remain in position. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. All parties accepted their nominations. A motion to close the nominations was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection. There was a question as to if the board had passed a motion to do away with term limits as they had discussed several times and it was determined that the board had passed a motion at the September 2022 Board Meeting to remove term limits. All officers for 2023 will stay the same, that being Chairwoman, Lena Charles; Vice Chairman, Don D'Avy; Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Ralph Keith Broussard.

ODDD 2023 Meeting Dates: A motion to accept the meeting dates as presented by Craig Lebouef of the Accounting Firm Going, Sebastian, Fisher and Lebouef was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

ODDD Goals and Objectives for 2023: Chairman Lena Charles suggested that the board focus on a downtown design build to include mixed use development of downtown. Chairwoman Charles explained that the blighted building ordinance that was recently introduced to the City of Opelousas is the catalyst to new downtown development projects. Conversation ensued. Mr. Keith Broussard suggested hiring a consultant to help the board come up with a Diversity Program for new businesses and existing businesses to follow moving forward.

Old Business:

BIG Grant-Update: Ms. Sarah Branton presented a final 2022 report of the 2022 BIG Grant Program. Mrs. Branton reminded the board of the previous discussion regarding the problem with delays with delivery of materials for the grant recipients. With that said, she announced that the deadline for project completion has been extended until March 31, 2023, for the 2022 funds to be allocated. Ms. Branton reported that Java Square, Back in Time, and Benny's Supermarket all submitted a request for extension in writing and received the extension. Grant Fontenot with The Vape Shop withdrew his grant request as he is not going to start his project at this time. Those funds, \$1,089.00, will go back into the budget. The two law firms, Harris and Harris and Abby Williams have completed their projects and submitted their receipts. Chairwoman Lena Charles reported that Benny's Supermarket has also completed their project and submitted their receipts. Ms. Branton announced that this report completes the BIG cycle for 2022. Ms. Branton also reported that the amount of grant monies of \$20,740.00 increased the downtown investment to \$99,065.00. Mr. Bill Rodier praised Ms. Branton and her committee for their hard work and success. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot to close out the 2022 BIG cycle. A second was made by Rob Hillard. Ms. Branton requested an increase to \$50,000 for the BIG for the year 2023 because of the success of the program and increase in material costs for projects. Conversation ensued. A motion was made by Rob Hillard to approve the \$50,000 budget and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection. Sarah Branton stated the BIG Grant rules and applications will be added to the webpage and ODDD social media page when the 2023 cycle opens.

CPEX City of Opelousas -Regulating Non-Residential Vacant Structures in the City of Opelousas Ordinance: Chairwoman Charles announced that the Ordinance Regulating Non-Residential Vacant Structures was introduced at the January 10, 2023 Council Meeting. The next step is the Public Hearing on February 14th.

New Life RFP: Chairwoman Charles reported that this project has been officially handed over to the Opelousas City Council. Mrs. Charles presented the committee's recommendation to the council in December. The council can now choose to accept the recommendation or to dismiss it and start the request over again.

Courthouse Phase II Lighting: Chairwoman Charles reported that Cynthia Lormand of The Walking Ladies advised that the contractor they contracted to do the project experienced a fire

that destroyed his entire warehouse including the materials of the Courthouse project. He was insured so everything will be replaced; it will just take a little longer than planned.

TAP Grant-Landry Street Status Report: On January 12th DOTD awarded The Landry Street Project has been awarded to Briggs Brothers Enterprises Corporation in the amount of \$512,683.40. Briggs now has 15 calendar days to return executed contract, insurance, and bonding information.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Grant: Janece Riser gave a report on the two moveable structures that will be in the South Park.

Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements:

Water/Wastewater Improvement: Morgan Goudeau & Associates awarded the Water and Sewer Improvement Project to the lowest bidder, E.B. Fitch whose bid was \$198,875.00.

Turning Lane: Bill Rodier reported that construction on the turn lane should begin shortly.

South Park Master Plan: Chairwoman Charles introduced EB Brooks who was available virtually. Ms. Brooks gave an update on her progress in her role as consultant and gave a synopsis on hypothetical options. Discussion ensued. Chairwoman Charles proposed a meeting to occur between a committee of the ODDD and a committee of the CSLEDD. Conversation ensued.

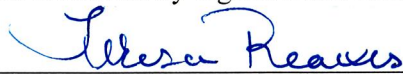
ODDD Taxing District, TIF to add additional businesses on Creswell: Chairwoman Charles reported that the ODDD needs Creswell to make the Park plan work. The board stated they are open to splitting Creswell with CSLEDD to further both of their agendas.

Board Member Comments:

Public Comments:

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, February 24, 2023, at 9:00 am at the SLED building.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Don D'avy and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.



Secretary



Chairperson