



Board Meeting

Date and Time: July 21, 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
- ❖ ODDD Business Recognition Program –TBD
- ❖ Approval of June 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
 - Determine CD Account Distributions and Authorize CEO for Inquiries (Action)
- ❖ Executive Director's Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD
 - New Businesses Updates
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - Opelousas Historic District National Registry Considerations
 - ODDD BIG Grant (Update)
 - South Park Master Plan (Update)
 - TAP Grant - Landry Street (Update)
 - Change Order
 - Courthouse Phase II Lighting (Update)
 - Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements
 - Additional Turning Lane (Update)
 - Water & Sewer Improvements (Update)
 - ODDD District Expansion
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**

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

The following members were absent: Rob Hillard

The following SLED members were present: Bill Rodier (CEO of SLED) Teresa Reaves (SLED), Brittany Cretchain (SLED), Janece Riser (-virtually, SLED)

Guests present in person: Herman Fuselier (St Landry Tourism), Patrick Guillory, Melanie LeBouef (City of Opelousas Main Street) Herman Fuselier (St Landry Tourism), David Jarrell,

Brennan Breaux (SLEMCO), Stephen Daste

Chairwoman Charles welcomed the board and opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Charles introduced Leola Moore, owner of Totally Mie Boutique, and congratulated her for being chosen as the Business of the Month for July 2023. Totally Mie Boutique has been in business for four (4) years and is located at 120 E. Bellevue St in Opelousas.

Approval of June 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the June 23, 2023, minutes as submitted by Mrs. Sarah Branton and seconded by Mr. Don Davy with changes to the format in the future. Motion carried without objection. Mr. Don D'avy plans to sit with staff and set it up to follow the agenda more closely.

Monthly Financial Report: The financials were presented by Mr. Keith Broussard. He went over the balances, income, and expenditures. Questions and discussion ensued. A motion was made to accept the financials as submitted by Mr. Ogden Pitre and seconded by Mrs. Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

Determine CD Distributions and Authorize CEO for inquiries: Mrs. Janece Riser explained the reason this item is back on the agenda is because the minutes need to reflect exactly how much money and from which accounts are going where. She also reported that the board needs to give CEO Bill Rodier the authority to have access to those accounts. A motion was made by Mrs. Sarah Branton to move \$563,319.00, the profits for the previous year, into American Bank account number 7589. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection. A motion was made by Mr. Ogden Pitre to transfer 1.25 million dollars from the account at American Bank ending in 7589 and depositing it into a 90- day 4.8 % interest bearing CD account along with transferring 1.25 million dollars from the same checking account ending in 7589 into a 4.25% interest bearing Money Market account with Catalyst Bank. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sarah Branton. The motion was carried without objection. A motion was made by Mr. Don Davy to add the signers on the new accounts as Chairwoman Mrs. Lena Charles, vice-Chair Mr. Don D'avy and Treasurer Mr. Ralph Keith Broussard, as well as add CEO Bill Rodier authority to request information. Motion seconded by Mr. Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a report regarding what is happening in and around Opelousas. He reported on construction issues. He also reported on the upcoming press releases on new businesses coming soon. Mr. Rodier gave reports on the traffic situation that will be coming. He also reported that he'd like to facilitate a group of realtors coming together to better educate them on the tools available downtown for them to help sell people on value of investing in downtown Opelousas. Questions and discussion ensued. There was no action taken by the board.

Old Business:

Opelousas Historic District National Registry Considerations: Chairwoman Charles reported on the preservation project with Kelly Calhoun about using Carola Hartley for historical input. Ms. Calhoun indicated that she would be very open to working with Carola and that she planned to attend the upcoming historic district board meeting remotely. Chairwoman Charles reminded the board that the proposal from Kelly that was submitted in the packet was for informational purposes only. The board previously approved the project not to exceed \$20,000.00.

BIG Grant Update: Ms Sarah Branton gave a report on the BIG Grant. Janece Riser reported that all the acceptance letters have been received and the unsuccessful projects have been notified. The next step is to send out the press release. Wording will be sent to the committee shortly.

South Park Master Plan Update: Chairwoman Charles reported that a first draft of the CEA was received from the City of Opelousas Attorney. She met with the mayor. She stated that the CEA will be on the August City of Opelousas agenda. Chairwoman Charles recapped the process of the bonding process. Mr. Bill Rodier reported that he met with Synergy Sports Group. They specialize in sports-related facilities. Mr. Rodier gave a short presentation on the background of Synergy Sports and what they could potentially bring to the table. Questions and conversation ensued. It was decided to have a special meeting at some time before the August 11th City Council meeting. A motion was made by Sarah Branton to schedule a special meeting and seconded by Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection. Mr. Keith Broussard advised that he'd like to see some reference in the CEA to the diversity program he's working on. Chairwoman Charles advised him that the CEA is not final so he should read it over and send in his comments.

TAP Grant – Landry Street Update and Change Order: Chairwoman Charles gave an update on the Landry Street Sidewalk project reporting that the contractors have been pouring concrete as of yesterday. She explained that a change order for building drainage that was found in the concrete has been submitted for approval in the amount of \$12,709.78. A motion was made to approve the change order as submitted by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Don D'avy. Motion carried without objection. Chairwoman Charles made the board aware that a CEA between ODDD and City of Opelousas for ODDD to take on the financial match of this project was somehow overlooked and a new CEA for the change order will be needed. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Ogden Pitre to contact Attorney Bruce Gaudin to write the two CEAs needed for this project. Motion carried without objection.

Courthouse Phase II Lighting - Final Report: Chair Charles informed the board that the project is complete, and the final payment has been made on the project.

Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements: Chairwoman Charles reported that this portion of the project is complete. Chairwoman Charles informed the board that she recently met with members of the Boagni family and that they are open to discussions towards working with ODDD on a Master Plan for the future of the property once the Chic Filet project is complete.

Mrs. Charles also noted that there was also a discussion with the family related to property taxes on the entire parcel that were eventually incorporated into the City of Opelousas.. It was decided that will be discussed in detail later.

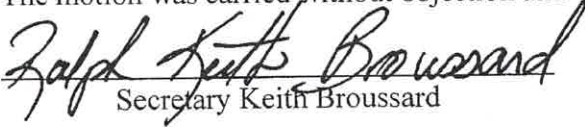
ODDD District Expansion - Update: Chairwoman Charles advised that there was no update at this time. Her next step is to sit with the Assessor's office.


Board Member Comments: Chairwoman Ms. Lena Charles advised that the 41st Annual Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Festival is Labor Day weekend and invited everyone to the Zydeco kick-off party to be held at the Opelousas Museum on Thursday, August 10th.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded by Mr. Don Davy

The motion was carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 am.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles