



### Board Meeting

**Date and Time: March 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.**

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

### **AGENDA**

- ❖ Public Hearing
- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of February 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes
  - ODDD Business Recognition Program, Business of the Month Award.
    - **“Guaranty Glass Inc, 1009 W. Vine Street.”**
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ Adoption of Ordinance; Amending ODDD Taxing District, ODDD/TIF – Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana.
  - Commissioners Roll Call Vote
- ❖ Executive Director’s Report
  - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
    - New Life Center Update
- ❖ **New Business**
  - ODDD Business Improvement Grant, BIG for Year 2022
    - Presented by Sarah Branton.
  - ODDD Goals and Objectives for Year 2022
  - Request for approval of branding material for the Opelousas Chamber’s (Small Business Summit). Scheduled April 27, 2022, at Opelousas Civic Center.
- ❖ **Old Business:**
  - ODDD Responses to SLED Board on CEA.
  - The Walking Ladies Update for Phase II of permanent lighting.
  - City of Opelousas and ODDD Projects Updates
    - Tap Grant - Landry Street, Status Report
  - Keep Opelousas Clean Initiative with City of Opelousas, Healthy Communities Grant Letter of Intent was submitted. Keep Louisiana Beautiful respond March 23, 2022, to invite ODDD to submit a full grant application. Thank you, Mel and Janece for meeting that deadline.
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: Friday, ODDD Regular scheduled meeting on April 22, 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.

## **Public Hearing**

Chairwoman Lena Charles opened the Public Hearing at 8:45 stating the following:

An ordinance further amending the geographical boundaries of Opelousas Downtown Development District - Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana; and to extend the levy and collection of an existing 1% Sales and Use Tax into the expanded geographical boundaries, in accordance with and as authorized by Part II, Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing.

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Don D'Avy, Vice Chair Sarah Branton.

The following members were present virtually: Philip Sherman (Attorney)

The following members were absent: Ogden Pitre, Rob Hilliard, Pat Fontenot, Keith Broussard

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

Guest present in person were: Carol & Richard LaFleur (Guaranty Glass, Inc.), Purvis Morrison (City of Opelousas)

Vice Chair Sarah Branton posed a point of clarification with the verbiage of expanding the geographical boundaries versus adding parcels within the district. Attorney Sherman stated that he will address the change to the ordinance when a motion is called in the regular meeting.

Chairwoman Lena Charles closed the public comment at 8:59 AM.

## **Regular Board Meeting**

Chairwoman Lena Charles opened the regular board meeting at 9:08 AM.

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Pat Fontenot, Don D'Avy, Ogden Pitre, Rob Hilliard and Sarah Branton.

The following members were present virtually: None

The following member was absent: Keith Broussard,

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

Guest present in person were Herman Fuselier (St. Landry Parish Tourism), Melanie LeBeouf (Opelousas Tourism), Carol & Richard LaFleur (Guaranty Glass, Inc.)

Guest present virtually was Philip Sherman (Attorney)

It was determined that a quorum was present and Chairwoman Lena Charles opened the meeting at 9:08 am.

**Approval of March 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the March 25, 2022 meeting minutes with stated corrections was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Don D'avy. Motion carried without objection.

**ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2022:** On behalf of the board Chairwoman Lena Charles recognized **Guaranty Glass Inc** that is located at, **1009 W. Vine Street**, Opelousas, LA as the March recipient for ODDD's Business of the month program. Mr. & Mrs. LaFleur have been in business for 39 years and were in attendance to accept the award.

**Financial Report:** Bill Rodier provided an overview of the February 2022 financials. He reminded the board that they are on the State budget cycle and need to schedule a meeting with the CPA in April to discuss any amendments to the budget that may need to be made in order to stay within a 5% overall variance of the budget. A motion to accept the February 2022 financials was made by Don D'Avy and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

**Adoption of Ordinance; Amending ODDD Taxing District, ODDD/TIF – Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana:** Chairwoman Lena Charles read

An ordinance further amending the geographical boundaries of Opelousas Downtown Development District - Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana; and to extend the levy and collection of an existing 1% Sales and Use Tax into the expanded geographical boundaries, in accordance with and as authorized by Part II, Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing.

A motion to amend the ordinance was made by Ogden Pitre and seconded by Sarah Branton to read as follows:

An ordinance further amending the taxable parcels of Taxing Incentive Financing District titled Opelousas Downtown Development District - Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana within the Opelousas Downtown Development District a taxing financial district; and to extend the levy and collection of an existing 1% Sales and Use Tax into the expanded taxable parcels, in accordance with and as authorized by Part II, Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing. He further wanted to reflect the reference to geographical boundaries to be changed to taxable parcels. Motion Carried without objection. Bill Rodier and Philip Sherman discussed the next steps of the process.

**Executive Director's Report:** Bill Rodier discussed the progress regarding Downtown Opelousas including the RFP process for the New Life Center. Bill also talked about the importance of the redevelopment of the Viviano properties, recent interest in the properties, and

available grants and federal programs to help with restoration and environmental fixes. Rebuilding downtown is clearly a catalyst for redevelopment. He updated the board on the New Life Center RFP process which closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. There were two proposals that came in and will need to be evaluated and scored. A review selection committee will be meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> to go over and score the proposals. The committee will then provide recommendations to the Opelousas City Council at their regular meeting in May.

#### ***New Business***

***The Big Grant 2022:*** Sarah Branton and Melanie LeBeouf discussed the 2022 Big Grant Project. The grant is now a \$5,000 match bringing to the total of the project \$10,000. Melanie stated that the press release will be going out shortly. Applications will be accepted beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.

***ODDD Goals and Objectives for Year 2022*** Chairwoman Charles presented and discussed the ODDD 2022 goals to the board. Motion made to accept 2022 goals by Rob Hilliard and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

#### ***Request for approval of branding material for the Opelousas Chamber's (Small Business Summit). Scheduled April 27, 2022, at Opelousas Civic Center.***

Taylor Lormand spoke about the branding guide and how this was different than the materials that would be created for the Business Summit for the Chamber of Commerce. She further elaborated on why a branding guide is important for consistency.

#### **Old Business:**

***ODDD Responses to SLED Board on CEA.*** Ogden Pitre discussed the changes to the CEA that he submitted to Chairwoman Charles. His discussion centered around the language of the CSLEDD's CEA and how it will work for ODDD. Bill stated that he has not received a copy of the amended CEA with the proposed changes. Bill suggested that once the changes are received that he felt it might be valuable for Ogden and Andy Dakin from the Industrial Development board to sit down together and discuss the content of the document to come to a final consideration for both boards to consider. It was agreed that Bill would help to coordinate this meeting and discussion as soon as possible.

***The Walking Ladies Update for Phase II of permanent lighting:*** Chairman Charles informed the board that the project is still in progress.

#### **City of Opelousas:**

- Tap Grant Landry Street – Chairwoman Lena Charles advised that David Jarrell stated he will have drawing submitted to Mr. Meeks in time for the DOTD June deadline.
- Keep Opelousas Clean Initiative – Chairwoman Charles stated the Healthy Communities Grant Letter was submitted and the Opelousas Downtown Development was chosen to apply for the grant.

❖ **Board Member Comments**

- Pat Fontenot reiterated on thoughts from earlier discussion on project drainage and retention and that this is a focus that is included in the CPEX Master Plan, He spoke of the board taking an active role, along with the City, in ensuring future development takes a progressive approach in planning in this area of development.

❖ **Public Comments:**

- Makers Market on the square is being held Saturday, March 26.
- The St. Landry Parish School board Initiative vote is on Saturday, March 26.
- Love Fest by Sunrise Rotary is being held on Sunday, March 27.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, April 22, 2022, 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 Sarah Branton. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am.

  
Secretary

  
Chairperson