Minutes of June 26th, 2026
ODDD Board Meeting

<u>Board Meeting</u>
Date and Time: June 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road
Opelousas, LA 70570

Budget Public Hearing

a) Amend Operating Budget for fiscal the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026
b) Adopt Proposed Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Lena Charles opened the Public Hearing for the budget at 9:02 AM.

Lena Charles closed the Public Hearing for the Budget at 9:08 AM.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Pledge and Opening Prayer
3. Roll Call
4. ODDD Business Recognition Program: Boagni Gastro Clinic
5. Public Comments – Limit to 3 Minutes
6. Approval of May 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes
7. Monthly Financial Report
   a) St Landry Bank CD Renewal
   b) John S Dowling Audit Engagement Letter
   c) John S Dowling Agreed Upon Procedures
   d) Audit Compliance Questionnaire
   e) Adoption of the Amended Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
   f) Adoption of the Proposed Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

8. **Old Business:**

a) Vacant Structures Ordinance Update- Lance Ned
b) M&M Associates –ConnectLA/South Park Community Center Update
c) South Park Project Update- Chris Rideau and Mayor Julius Alsandor
d) 2026 BIG Grant Program Update

9. Board Member Comments
10. Adjourn

The following members were present in person: Lena Charles, Don D’Avy, Sarah Branton, Stephen Daste, Ogden Pitre

The following members were absent: Rob Hillard

The following SLED members were present: Janece Riser, Victoria Mott, Brittany Cretchain

The following guests were present: Marcus Bruno, Herman Fuselier, Lonnie Beth Williamson, Ty Thomas, Gretchen Eslingson, Steven Picou, Bobby Ardion, Taylor Vidrine

Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the board and guests, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer at 9:08 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Lena recognized Boagni Gastro Clinic as the ODDD Business of the Month for June 2026.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of May 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes: Pat Fontenot made a motion to accept the May 22nd, 2026, meeting minutes with the necessary corrections. Stephen Daste seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Ogden Pitre made a motion to amend the agenda to include The City of Opelousas Request under New Business. Sarah Branton seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Stephen Daste presented the financial update, including a review of the balance sheet and revenues and expenditures through June. Pat Fontenot made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Sarah Branton seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

St. Landry Bank CD Renewal: Steven Daste reported that several certificates of deposit (CDs), including one with American Bank and two with St. Landry Bank, recently matured and were renewed at an interest rate of 3.25%, which he noted is the current market rate. He also explained that when a previous CD matured, the funds were temporarily deposited into a 3% interest-bearing money market account until they could be reinvested. As a result, the Catalyst cash balance appears higher than usual on the financial statements.

John S Dowling Audit Engagement Letter: Stephen Daste made a motion to approve the audit engagement letter, not to exceed $9,000 in services. Don D'Avy seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

John S Dowling Agreed Upon Procedures: Stephen Daste made a motion to approve the agreed upon procedures, not to exceed $2,900 in services. Don D'avy seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Audit Compliance Questionnaire: Sarah Branton made a motion to authorize Stephen Daste to complete the Audit Compliance Questionnaire. Ogden Pitre seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Adoption of Amended 2025-2026 Operating Budget: Stephen Daste made a motion to adopt the amended operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026. Pat Fontenot seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Adoption of Proposed 2026-2027 Operating Budget: Don D'Avy made a motion to adopt the proposed operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027. Stephen Daste seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

OLD BUSINESS

Vacant Structure Ordinance Update: Lance Ned reported that the City will mail a second round of vacant building registration notices in July to property owners who have not registered or renewed their vacant building registration within the past six months. He explained that properties remaining out of compliance from the previous year will have fines assessed through their property tax bills, with unpaid fines ultimately resulting in liens against the properties after one year. Mr. Ned noted that property owners have effectively had a two-year grace period, as enforcement was limited in 2024, implemented in 2025, and the first fines will appear on the 2026 property tax rolls. While the City has provided ample opportunity for compliance, he stated that it is now necessary to fully enforce the ordinance. Approximately half of the identified vacant properties remain out of compliance, and board members expressed support for continued enforcement efforts to encourage registration and compliance.

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City of Opelousas Request: Lance Ned, on behalf of the City of Opelousas, requested up to $125,000 from the Downtown Development District to assist with the acquisition and remediation of the Bordelon Building, located at 118 North Main Street. He explained that approximately $80,000 would be used for the purchase of the property, with the remaining funds allocated for Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, as well as above-ground environmental remediation. Following discussion, Ogden Pitre made a motion to approve up too $125,000 for the acquisition and remediation of the Bordelon building. Sarah Branton and Pat Fontenot seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Community Center Update- M&M Associates: Marcus Bruno introduced his student intern and provided an update on the construction project. He reported that recent heavy rainfall caused minor delays but that the project remains on schedule. Electrical and plumbing rough-ins have been completed, and the majority of the prefabricated building materials have been delivered to the site. The contractor plans to pour the concrete slab during the first week of July, with the work expected to take approximately one day. After allowing several days for the concrete to cure over the holiday, construction will continue with the erection of the building's steel structure.

South Park Project Update: Chris Rideau reported that work on the library project is progressing as planned and is in its final stages. He informed the board that the project remains on schedule and is nearing completion.

2026 BIG Grant Program Update: Brittany Cretchain reported that 25 applications were received for the grant program. She informed the board that further discussion regarding the applications would take place following the meeting and noted that the applications are scheduled to be scored on July 7**.**

Board Member Comments: Lena Charles reported that she and Brittany Cretchain attended the Conversation with the Mayor event in Lafayette. She also informed the board of the passing of Bill Rodier and noted that his memorial service will be held on July 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Savior's Church.

Adjournment: With no further business to bring before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Ogden Pitre. The motion carried without objection and the meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM.

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Secretary Stephen Daste

Chairperson Lena Charles