

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021.

Those present: Jim Keaty, Lisa Thomas, Ross Fontenot, Gus Rezende, Michael Delcambre and Miles Matt

Those absent: Gregory Walls

DDA Staff present: Anita Begnaud, Amy Trahan, Hunter Hebert, and Rachel Holland

Others present: Burton Kolder, Jan Swift, Stuart Breaux, Matthew Thibodeaux, Carlee Alm-Labar, Kevin Blanchard, Captain Roy Starring, Maggi Bienvenu, Brett Mellington, and Tim Skinner

The meeting was called to order by Thomas.

Public comment process is attached to the end of the agenda for individuals wishing to address the Board on agenda items. Request to speak must be submitted prior to discussion of the item. Individuals are allowed three minutes for comments.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

May Financials – May Financials were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Keaty seconded, all voted in favor.

June Meeting Minutes - June Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Keaty motioned to approve as amended, Matt seconded, all voted in favor.

2020 Financial Audit

Kolder noted that the organization is very financially healthy with fund balances of 2 years of operating expenses. Kolder noted ad-valorem taxes are down from 2019 by about \$50,000 due to declining property values. Kolder further noted that personnel costs were higher in 2020 from 2019 due to the hiring of Rachel Holland. Kolder noted that the fund balance and the end of 2020 was reduced by 149,403 from the 2019.

Resolution to adopt the FY2020 Audit. Matt motioned to approve FY2020 Audit as presented, Keaty seconded, all voted in favor.

CEO Report

Begnaud noted a contract has been signed on Main Street and surveying is in the works. Begnaud noted construction continues at the Old Federal Courthouse Project and Buchanan Parking Garage. Begnaud also noted construction of elevators at the Vermilion Parking Garage has begun. Begnaud noted the Downtown EDD Board meeting will be held on tonight at 5pm at Rosa Parks Building to hire an administrator. Begnaud noted a Wayfinding mock-up will be deployed at Parc Sans Souci in the next 30 days and a full implementation in the coming months.

Protect the City Committee

Swift noted that the Protect the City Committee will present their report to the Lafayette City Council at the end of this month. Swift noted that the Committee supports deconsolidation of the Lafayette City Parish Consolidated Government. Swift further noted that the Committee believe that Lafayette should have its own dedicated Mayor. Breaux noted the Committee hopes that both the City and Parish Councils vote to convene a charter commission to draft new charters for a deconsolidated City and Parish Government. Breaux noted if the councils fail to vote for a charter commission, then a petition of 10,000 Lafayette Parish residents could authorize a charter commission. Breaux noted that in this case the charter commissioners would need to be elected by the voters. Breaux noted the Parish Council has formed a committee to review the strengths and weaknesses of the consolidated government. Thibodeaux asked if it was possible for Lafayette to get its own Mayor in the next election. Swift and Breaux both noted that it is possible, but the timeline is close. Thibodeaux asked who would vote for the City of Lafayette to get its own Mayor. Breaux noted that the entire Parish of Lafayette would vote on if Lafayette could have its own Mayor. Discussions continued.

Updates

Director of Planning - No updates.

Operations - Hebert noted Public Works is hiring a full-time maintenance worker for the Downtown district.

LPD update – Captain Roy Starring noted that he recently met with Rezende and Delcambre to address a nuisance complaint at their Downtown businesses.

Council update - Not present.

Other Business

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.