



## **Minutes**

**Of the Legal and regular session of the Southside Economic Development District, meeting at the Powell Avenue Community Center, Monroe, La.**

**July 15, 2024**

The July 15, 2024, meeting of the Southside Economic Development District Board of Commissioners was held at the Powell Avenue Community Center at 3 p.m.

Tony Little, Otis Jones, Roosevelt Wright, Tyrone Goodin, Mrs. Anna Reed, and Karl Dhaliwal were present. Preston Hopkins was absent.

Several members of the public, including representatives of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and the Northeast Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce Foundation, were present.

There was a quorum.

The invocation was given by Mr. Wright.

### **President's Review**

President Little introduced Mrs. Anna Reed, who was appointed to SEDD by the city council and nominated by District 5 council member Minister Verbon Muhammad. Mr. Little projected that the board has the energy and synergy to obtain additional funding for SEDD, which is forthcoming.

Mr. Wright moved, and Mr. Little seconded that the May 20, 2024, minutes previously provided on the SEDD website be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **The Dream Center**

Mr. Jones gave an update on the progress toward the renovation of the Arizona Street Dream Center. He said the renovation encountered considerable deterioration of the building, which was rotted. However, he said the work is being done and will be completed on time, August 30, and under budget. Mr. Wright noted that Arizona Street Center will serve as a meeting and planning center for all non-profits working to help implement some portion of the Southside Dream, including the SEDD, Black Chamber of Commerce, Tab-N-Action, and other groups. It will be equipped with projection screens and technology for training workshops and training sessions.

Mr. Little said SEDD took the building offline until it was renovated, and he thanked Mr. Jones for assuming the supervision of the project.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer, Roosevelt Wright, Jr. reported that as of June 30, 2024 the SEDD has received from Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts in May 2024, \$13,788.55. He said the current funds on hand (as of April 30, 2024): General Fund: \$363,986.47 State Revenues: \$54,449.67. He noted that the total Funds on Hand: \$418,436.14 as of April 30, 2024. (The most recent report from the city). He emphasized that no expenditures have been made for salaries, honorariums, or personal services. He also reported that the liability insurance policy for the Arizona Street Facility is due for renewal with State Farm Insurance. Upon motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jones, the report was adopted with authorization to pay outstanding renovation bills and recurring expenses.

### **TIF Request**

The board unanimously agreed to authorize the President to request that the Monroe City Council Act on a resolution it approved on October 11, 2022, requesting the mayor reconsider his decision not to provide a TIF for the SEDD. The SEDD requested a \$1 million annual TIF, with the understanding that the SEDD has no plan to pursue any new sales taxes while the TIF is in place.

### **Mini-Grants**

The board heard presentations from non-profit organizations related to the mini-grants. The board unanimously approved Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the following:

- a. **FDK Foundation, Rick Saulsberry**: The foundation will engage 100 or more youth in talks and presentations focused on teaching nonviolent conflict resolution and avoiding crime. Sessions will be conducted in conjunction with athletic teams and organizations in the Parish and City School Systems.
- b. **Just Run the Play, Inc., DeJanerio Davis**.: The proposal is to create reels for Facebook, Instagram and, and Tic Toc that discourage violence and criminal activity.
- c. **St Matthews Church of Christ, Pearl Wise**: To provide a drug recovery program aimed providing support for recovering addicts in the district to reduce recidivism.
- d. **B.K. Mentoring, Inc., Sammy Crawford**: To provide personal discipline training for at risk youth through boxing and personal training.

- e. **City Wide Gardening Initiative, Darian Belton:** To engage youth in the development of a free neighborhood garden to promote neighborhood pride and youth development
- f. **Ruth's House Resource Center, Erica Louis:** To provide hands-on counseling, job placement, and support services to those with mental health and non-violent criminal histories.
- g. **CONA, Inc., Mondrian Douglas:** To promote community safety, we work with seniors, families, and youth groups to check on the elderly, report crime, and promote neighborhood safety.
- h. **Community Clean-Up, Terrance Carroll:** A program to involve youth in neighborhood cleanup campaigns in weekly community clean up sessions in Districts 3,4,5 under the guidance mentors and volunteers.

An opportunity was provided for citizen participation. Mrs. Kenya Robeson suggested that minutes of meetings and other activities be posted on the SEDD website. In response, Mr. Wright said the website is current and features all of the requested information. Others made a few announcements. Afterward, Mr. Little thanked members of the chamber for their attendance, and kudos were given to Mr. Dhaliwal for his continued support of the SEDD.

After 1:24 minutes of deliberation, the meeting was adjourned.