



Minutes

**Of the Legal and Regular Meeting
of the Southside Economic Development District
to be held at Marbles Recreation Center**

August 7, 2023

4:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Southside Economic Development District met on August 7, 2023, at the Marbles Recreation Center.

Present were: Mr. Tony Little, Mr. Roosevelt Wright, Jr., Mr. Karl Dhaliwal, and Mr. Otis Jones.

Also present were Ms. Sonya Jacobs of JDS Consulting, Mondrian Douglas, and Rev. John L. Russell, Jr., director of OMCAP.

There was a quorum.

The board unanimously approved the June 5, 2023, minutes that were previously provided to commissioners.

The Treasurer, Roosevelt Wright, Jr., submitted a written report indicating the following:

Financial Summary:

- Balance Sheet in Chase Bank, SEDD general fund: \$358,512.18
- Receipts from the hotel/motel tax in July 2023: \$10,952.62
- Disbursements in July 2023: None (i.e., no expenses were paid in July 2023)
- Total receipts from the hotel/motel tax this fiscal year: \$32,297.34
- Balance in Chase Bank held for SEDD by the City of Monroe in the SEDD general fund: \$358,512.18

Engagement Letter with Rosie Harper, CPA:

I recommend the approval of the engagement letter with Rosie Harper, CPA, for the annual Compilation Report. The cost for this service is \$3,200. Engaging a certified public accountant for a compilation report will provide an independent assessment of our financial statements and enhance transparency and credibility in our financial reporting process.

Lawn Care Invoices:

I also propose the payment of four lawn care invoices totaling \$500.00. Proper maintenance of our properties is essential for maintaining a positive image of our district and attracting potential investors and visitors.

4. Budgetary Considerations:

With a healthy balance of \$358,512.18 in our general fund held at Chase Bank and the expected hotel and motel tax receipts of \$32,297.34 for the current fiscal year, we are in a strong financial position. Specific financials and spreadsheets are attached to this report.

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jones, the board unanimously approved the treasurer's report and authorized the payment bills associated with lawn care, Rosie Harper CPA, grant writer's fees, and R.K. Construction's final invoice of \$48,399.00.

The board heard a report from Mrs. Jacobs concerning the roof of the Arizona complex. She said the contractor has begun and will complete his task by August 11th, weather permitting. In addition, she noted that other repairs need to be handled rather quickly on an emergency basis because of the structural problems revealed.

Mrs. Jacobs also reported on plans for a Black business expo being planned by the Black Chamber of Commerce, in which SEDD will be a collaborator, along with other planned activities.

Mr. Little said he was abolishing the Housing Committee and redistributing its allocated funds to the remaining three committees. It was approved by common consent.

Mr. Jones asks that a proposal for Land 3 to develop a master plan for SEDD be passed over until his committee has had additional time to review it in more detail.

The board received the report of the Safe Neighborhood and Crime Reduction Committee about a \$25 million EPA grant for Solar panels and Environmental opportunities. The board unanimously approved the submission of the grant applications and the payment of the grant writer.

On motion of Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Jones, the board unanimously approved the committee's previously recommended model neighborhoods for Districts 3 and 5 and the adjustment of the model neighborhood for District 4 to be bordered by South Second Street on the West, Parkview Drive on the East, Texas Avenue on the north, and Winnsboro Road on the south, with the understanding that future meetings will be held with city officials and ministers to help explain the program.

On Motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Little, the board unanimously approved a CEA with the Ouachita Multi-Purpose CAP for a financial management collaboration program with initial funding of \$25,000, pending approval of the OMCAP board of directors.

After 54 minutes of deliberation, the board adjourned to meet again in regular session on September 11, 2023.

Tony Little, President

Roosevelt Wright, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

for Solar Panels. It will act on the committee's recommendation to approve three model neighborhoods for each council district.

1. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

2. ADJOURN