



## **Minutes**

**For the Legal and Regular Meeting  
of the Southside Economic Development District  
to be held at the Marbles Community Center, Monroe, La.**

**June 5, 2023**

**2:00 p.m.**

### **Roll Call:**

Present: Tony Little (President), Otis Jones, Roosevelt Wright Jr., Karl Dhaliwal  
Absent: Tyrone Goodin, Preston Hopkins, Rev. Marty Campbell

Visitor: Minister Verbon Muhammad was present.

Quorum: The meeting had a quorum.

Mr. Wright led the invocation.

### **President's Report:**

President Little provided an update on the ongoing projects. He informed the board that all members, except Mr. Hopkins, were in compliance with the State Ethics filing requirements.

President Little assigned three projects to different committees:

- a. Development of a Collaboration between SEDD and the Ouachita Multipurpose Community Action Agency: Assigned to the Safe Neighborhoods Committee.
- b. Development of a micro-loan program to assist Southside small businesses: Assigned to the DBE Committee.
- c. Development of studies and collaborations needed to annex contiguous land into the Southside: Assigned to the Infrastructure Committee.

### **Board Meeting Change:**

The board agreed to change the date of the July 3rd meeting to July 10, 2023, due to the 4th of July Holiday.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 1, 2023, meeting, as previously provided to the commissioners. The motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Little.

#### **Reroofing of Arizona Street Facility:**

Mr. Little provided a brief report on the progress of the reroofing project for the Arizona Street facility. The board discussed the pros and cons of renovating the facility or selling the property. The consensus was to continue with the reroofing project, as there was an anticipated grant that could be housed in the facility. If the grant is not received, alternative options would be explored. Mr. Little appointed Mr. Jones to work with JDS Consulting regarding the reroofing project.

#### **Disbursement Approval:**

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Little, the board unanimously approved the treasurer's recommendation to pay two invoices for lawn services to Harris Lawn Service. The invoices amounted to \$135.00 each and will be paid from the state allocation.

There was a discussion about reporting expectations from JDS Consulting regarding the progress pursuant to payments. Mr. Little confirmed that he has been in contact with the consultant and is satisfied with the progress being made on the six projects. Mr. Jones expressed the need for an update on progress after six months into the contract. The board decided not to act on the proposed \$18,400 payment as the initial draw for the JDS contract. Instead, they would act on the May 1, 2023, payment of \$5,520 to JDS, as requested. Mr. Little noted that JDS had only submitted the invoice for 1/3 payment of the contract, as requested by SEDD.

#### **Authorization for Compilation Report:**

On motion of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Wright, the board unanimously authorized the President to engage the services of Rosie D. Harper, CPA, to conduct a Compilation Report to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for SEDD's fiscal year 2022-2023.

#### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Wright, the secretary-treasurer, reported that SEDD received \$10,860.67 in hotel/motel tax revenues during the month of May. There were no expenditures in May. As of May 31, 2023,

SEDD had a cash balance of \$319,594.41 from hotel/motel tax revenues. There was \$55,299.67 remaining in the 2022 Legislative appropriation. SEDD's total fund balance amounted to \$374,894.08.

**Replacement of Board Members:**

On motion of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Wright, the board unanimously authorized the President to contact the Monroe City Council and request the replacement of three board members who have not attended a meeting this year. The board members are: Tyrone Goodin, (Mayor's appointee), Rev. Marty Campbell (District 5) and Preston Hopkins (District 4).

**Safe Neighborhood and Crime Reduction Committee:**

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Little, the board unanimously received the report of the Safe Neighborhood and Crime Reduction Committee and approved the committee's recommendation to hold community meetings in order to gather input on the model neighborhood plans.

The meetings are scheduled to begin in June. Mr. Wright requested the President to obtain dates from council representatives for meetings in their respective districts. He emphasized that protocol courtesy requires going through council members before hosting meetings. If council members choose not to host meetings in their districts, SEDD will host its own meetings because community input is necessary before adopting the neighborhoods' model.

**Citizen Participation:**

There was no citizen participation.

**Adjournment:**

After 58 minutes of discussion and deliberation, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place on July 10, 2023.

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Tony Little, President

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Roosevelt Wright, Jr., secretary-treasurer