



Minutes

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

November 1, 2023

5:20 p.m.

The November meeting of the Southside Economic Development District was held on November 1, 2023, at the Marbles Recreation Center.

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

Absent were Tyrone Goodin (Mayor's appointee), Preston Hopkins (District 4 appointee), and Rev. Marty Campbell (District 5 appointee).

There was one visitor, Mr. Ron Calhoun.

There was a quorum.

Mr. Wright gave the invocation.

President Little reported on SEDD's target goals for 2023.

The board unanimously approved the August 7, 2023, minutes that were previously provided to commissioners.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer, Roosevelt Wright, Jr., gave the following report:

A preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2024–25 is due for submission to the City of Monroe by December. I recommend resubmitting our current budget. To ensure transparency and public participation, we should advertise this in the official journal, conduct a public hearing during our December meeting, and thereafter submit the finalized version to the City of Monroe to be incorporated into the city's fiscal 2024–25 budget.

As of now, there are pending bills related to various services such as lawn care, TBA Studios, and JDS Consultants that need our immediate attention and settlement. I propose that we prioritize the clearance of these outstanding bills promptly.

Cash on Hand: From the sales tax revenues, the cash available as of October 30, 2023, stands at \$333,805.99.

Income: Our income from hotel and motel resources, accumulated from October 1 to October 30, amounts to \$9,226.66.

Expenses: It is noted that there were no expense disbursements in the month of October.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the payment of a \$13,900 bill from JDS Consulting Company led by Mr. Jones, who insisted that the board has not received any documentation for work done for the amount billed. That feeling was echoed by Mr. Dhaliwal, who said the Southside Community needs to be able to see that we used tax funds responsibly. Mr. Little gave a lengthy defense of the invoice, noting that he spends about five hours a day with the consultant in meetings about various DBE-related topics.

In the end, Mr. Jones moved that we adopt the treasurer's recommendation to pay outstanding bills to TBA Studios and Andrick Harris Lawn Service, but that only half of the \$13,900 bill from JDS Consulting would be paid, with the remainder authorized when the company produces invoices that indicate what the charges are for. Mr. Dhalwal seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Infrastructure Master Plan

The board will receive the report of the Infrastructure Committee, Otis Jones, Chairperson. It unanimously approved the committee's recommendation on the motion of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dhaliwal, to reject the master plan proposal from Land 3 and to readvertise for proposals to develop a master plan for infrastructure needs for the district. Mr. Jones asked that Runny C. Haisty, PLS, be added to the list of companies asked for a proposal, as well as Louisiana Tech, which was suggested by Mr. Calhoun.

Arizona St. facility renovation

The board discussed the renovations of the Arizona Street Complex. Mr. Calhoun, the contractor, explained that the roof is complete, but the exterior of the building has substantial rot, decay, and mold. He said completing the exterior would require a maximum of \$106,000 and a minimum of \$98,000, depending on the material used. The job can be completed in 30 days.

Board members decided not to declare an emergency to begin the formal process but to wait until they learned the outcome of the grants submitted, which will require the use of the building, before taking any action on external repairs. Mr. Calhoun said the building has been wrapped and is secure from weatherization for about a year.

Capital Outlay Request

The Board received a report from the Safe Neighborhoods Committee to submit a Louisiana capital outlay request for \$11.2 million to fill and close the ditches in Districts 3, 4, and 5, which is the next phase of the Safe Neighborhood Model Neighborhood Program. Mr. Wright said the cost estimates were not received until October 30, with a November 1st deadline for filing for state capital outlay funding. He said the outlays expect a 25% match and must indicate a source, plus be accompanied by letters of support from Representatives or the

Senator. With only one day to file, he suggested that we prepare to lobby all sources to get the match and seek capital outlay for November 2024.

After 1 hour and 50 minutes of deliberation, the meeting adjourned.

Tony Little, President

Roosevelt Wright, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer