

**St. Tammany Parish Development District  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
OFFICIAL Minutes May 19, 2022**

President Mayer called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm and extended gratitude on behalf of the board to Hornbeck for allowing use of the venue for this and subsequent meetings. Quorum was established by Commissioners present. Guests introduced themselves to the group.

**Present:** Joan Coffman, Scott Day, Mimi G. Dossett, Mike Gambrell, Al Hamauei, Marty Mayer, Bill Newton, Eric Schouest, Mike Tillman, Dr. William Wainwright

**Absent:** Bruce Javery

**Staff:** Chris Masingill, Sharon DeLong, Keith Espadron, Elizabeth Lee, Kate Moore, Todd Whalley

**Counsel:** David Wolf, Adams & Reese; Mark Balkin, Hardy Carey Chautin & Balkin

**Guests:** Kathleen Wilkin, Small Business Advocate; Catherine Walker, Former Graduate Research Fellow (via Zoom); Phil Sherman, Lee Reid, and Cate Creed of Adams & Reese; Jasmine Brown and Peter Waggoner of GNO, Inc.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment on any agenda item.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Masingill commented on income and expense accounts on the District financials, which resulted in \$11,000 under budget. He also noted the Sports/Tourism account closed at the end of April with P2E contributing the remaining \$36,000 to the District for economic development use. Masingill stated talks between STC, the St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission, and State Senators Patrick McMath and Sharon Hewitt regarding a noted increase in local hotel/motel tax collections, developed into a possible increase in House Appropriations to the St. Tammany Fund in the next budget cycle.

With no items removed for discussion, Mike Gambrell, seconded by Bill Newton, moved to approve the consent agenda items, which consisted of February Board of Commissioner & Finance Committee Minutes and the Year-to-Date Financial Statements for all accounts. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

President Mayer stated the Policy Update from GNO, Inc. and the New Directions 2040 Briefing will be moved up on the agenda to allow guests the opportunity to exit the meeting after completion.

**Policy Update**

Jasmine Brown, Vice President of Public Policy, and Peter Waggoner, Public Policy & Programs Associate, presented policy updates as they relate to the economic development region, which includes St. Tammany Parish. Topics addressed were tax reform; streamlining the Sales Tax Commission and occupational licenses and taxes; unemployment trust fund; SBIR or STR Federal grant programs; early childhood education; computer science education; SB 477 Container Hauling Program and other infrastructure concerns, including the New Orleans/Baton Rouge passenger rail. Waggoner shared information on the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance and FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0, which will heavily impact St. Tammany Parish.

**New Directions 2040**

Matt Rufo, Principal at Askura Robinson, guided Commissioners through the current plan, noting economic trends, land & use development, the future land use map, areas for manufacturing and logistics, business & economy, as well as administration and implementation of the plan. Next steps are consideration by Parish Council for endorsement by resolution (date TBD); and an updated future land use map to begin informing Planning & development staff reports.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed Budget for Northshore Regional Resiliency Collaborative (EDA Grant)**

To strengthen regional partnerships and economic resiliency, Masingill stated that St. Tammany Corporation led a collaborative of 5 Northshore parishes, who will collectively implement a Northshore regional workforce development and talent retention strategy, as well as create business retention and formation opportunities in Southeast Louisiana. Masingill presented the proposed budget with the total project cost of \$400,000, with \$80,000 in local match funds from each of the five parishes. The EDA Grant will reimburse additional expenditures up to \$320,000. Joan Coffman, seconded by Mimi G. Dossett, motioned to approve the budget as presented. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Proposed Budget for Northshore Healthscape**

Masingill stated this initiative was recently launched in support of one of the largest employers in the parish – the healthcare industry. As fiscal agent for this initiative, the proposed \$175,000 budget outlines a three-year healthcare sector pilot program to build capacity, workforce and talent, ecosystem development, and strategic implementation. STC and Healthcare Partners have committed \$130,000 toward this initiative. All financial needs and commitments will be evaluated on an annual basis. Mimi G. Dossett, seconded by Mike Gambrell, motioned to approve the budget as presented. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Proposed Vision First Agreement on THRIVE Healthcare Initiative**

Although included in the Northshore Healthscape budget previously approved, the Vision First Advisors, LLC, agreement exceeds the \$30,000 policy limit, therefore must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The scope of work included building consensus, stakeholder engagement research & analysis, marketing & communications messaging, and developing plan & implementation strategies. The fee for services is \$63,400, payable in five monthly payments of \$12,680, beginning June 1, 2022. Joan Coffman, seconded by Mike Gambrell, motioned to approve the letter of agreement as proposed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Revised Board Meeting Dates/Times/Locations**

Since the Governor’s executive order allowing virtual meetings during COVID expired March 16<sup>th</sup>, the board meeting schedule was revised to allow for more space than the STC conference room allowed. Masingill presented the proposed revision, noting Hornbeck Offshore & Slidell Municipal Auditorium meeting room as venue locations. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commissioners to meet from 11am to 1pm for the June, July, August, & September meetings; and from 3pm to 5pm for the October, November, & December meetings. A box lunch will be served at meetings scheduled from 11am to 1pm. Mike Tillman, seconded by Mike Gambrell, motioned to approve the stated revisions and times of monthly meetings. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS NONE**

**EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

**General Update**

Masingill extended gratitude and appreciation to the team’s longest serving Fellow student, Catherine Walker, for her 9 months of service to this economic development organization. He read into the record a resolution of appreciation, which was approved on a motion by Dr. Will Wainwright, and seconded by Bill Newton. All were in favor. (Resolution attached).

Masingill stated through all social media channels, STC highlighted 19 businesses for excellence in service and quality during Economic Development and Small Business Weeks. He also stated since its recent launch, and in partnership with GIS Planning, the InveST St. Tammany site had over 25,000 hits.

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Work on both the 2021 financial audit and the 2021 Act 774 audit (LLA) have been completed, with a final report scheduled for the June 16 meeting. He thanked Sharon DeLong for overcoming challenges to this year's audit.

Masingill also commended Jake Nickens for his work with, and resolutions to, compliance issues with a large employer in the parish. Kate Moore is slated to give a presentation to the School Board regarding outstanding compliance issues this evening.

Masingill thanked Commissioner Eric Schouest for his attendance at the recent Project Food meeting. We've been notified that we have not been eliminated from the selection process, and Schouest's attention to questions posed at the meeting was very beneficial.

Project Briefcase is in a holding pattern with no current updates.

**Wadsworth Logistics Corridor Community Meeting**

STC and Rachel Shields of GNO, Inc., will facilitate a dialogue with the public at a community meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 23. Everyone is invited to attend. Dr. Wainwright suggested creating a study or memo that outlines the alignment of our THRIVE 2023 Strategic Plan with New Directions 2040. This could be done to inform the community on what economic development is, what is involved in long-term strategic growth plans, and how both plans are already in alignment to create the greatest impact to our local and regional economy

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next meeting Thursday, June 16 | Hornbeck Offshore Corporate Offices | 103 Northpark Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Training Room | *Confirmed***

**ADJOURN**

Dr. Will Wainwright, seconded by Mike Gambrell, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 pm. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes reviewed and submitted by the STC Staff.