

**St. Tammany Parish Development District
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes | February 16, 2023**

Present: Joan Coffman, Scott Day, Mimi G. Dossett, Mike Gambrell, Al Hamauei, Bruce Javery, Eric Schouest

Absent: Bill Newton, Mike Tillman, William Wainwright

Vacant Seat: (Mayer)

Staff: Chris Masingill, Vincenzo Caronna, Sharon DeLong, Keith Espadron, Elizabeth Lee, Ashley Llewellyn, Kate Moore, Todd Whalley, Graduate Fellow Kyle Buckley

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

Guests: Kathleen Wilkin; Shawn Schulze, American Red Cross

Vice President Gambrell called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. Commissioners present established quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment on any agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

With no corrections, the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the January 19 BOC meeting minutes and January financial statements, *Al Hamauei, seconded by Eric Schouest, moved to approve the consent agenda. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution | Avenues Recovery/195 Highland Park

David Wolf presented Commissioners with an amended resolution to increase the Capex from the original \$11.7 million to \$13 million due to an increase in actual expenditures related to inflation and market costs.

Eric Schouest, seconded by Joan Coffman, motioned to approve the resolution. A roll call vote was taken. All Commissioners present were in favor.

IEDC Equity Fellowship Program MOU

STC has been selected as a host EDO for the International Economic Development Council Equity Fellowship program, where Elizabeth Lee will serve as the staff lead for the initiative. Masingill detailed costs to STC for the program and added that United Way will be participating in the program and sponsoring housing costs of the Equity Fellow for the 8-week program from June 5 – August 4, 2023. *Scott Day, seconded by Mimi Dossett, motioned to approve the MOU as presented. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

Candidate Recommendations

Masingill stated the Nominating Committee reviewed five substantial and highly competitive candidate applications at its meeting earlier that morning. Gambrell chaired the Nominating Committee meeting and stated that Ross Lagarde is the candidate the committee has put forward for consideration to fill the current board vacancy. *Al Hamauei, seconded by Mimi Dossett, motioned to approve Ross Lagarde as the nominee to presented at the April 6 Parish Council meeting for final approval. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

The other four candidate applications not selected will be kept on file for the upcoming summer nominating process to fill seats of Commissioners whose terms are set to expire December 31, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

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New Meeting Time and Location

Due to ongoing scheduling conflicts with morning meetings, it was recommended that the times be adjusted. After a robust discussion, it was determined that the meeting time would be set at 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in St. Tammany Corporation's conference room, unless otherwise informed. *Mimi Dossett, seconded by Eric Schouest, motioned to approve the 3 p.m. meeting time in the St. Tammany Corporation conference room with opportunities, as available, to meet in Lacombe and Slidell. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Masingill introduced Shawn Schulze, CEO of the American Red Cross of Louisiana, who gave a brief presentation on the organization's programming and impact.

Activity Report

With a retooled activity report, board input included approval of its sleek look and concise bullet points. Some modifications were recommended. It was suggested that KPIs and related elements be added. The team will incorporate changes for next month's report.

State CEA

Masingill gave a brief history of the approval/payment process of the CEA with the State Treasury Department, as we are in the process of scheduling a meeting with Treasury department officials to work through all issues and concerns. Mark Balkin offered historical data regarding legislative appropriations.

Economic Development

NTCC IT Summit

Ashley gave a brief presentation on the event where she and Cenzo connected with approximately 1,000 high school students about careers and pathways in the IT industry.

STPPS Career & College Expo

More than 3,000 students in grades 8-12 and their families from across the parish gathered at The Harbor Center to learn about colleges, technical education, apprenticeships, military, and other pathways after high school.

Projects

Masingill noted that the staff is currently working over thirty projects in the pipeline, and one RFP was submitted in the past month. One of the most notable projects is Project Goldvein, a major multinational supply chain and logistics company looking to locate a facility in Eastern St. Tammany Parish.

Capacity Fee Reservation Council Ordinance | Department of Utilities Proposed Rate Increases

Tammany Utilities leadership is continuing to work on a new proposal based on previous stakeholder meetings. The current ordinance agenda has been postponed until March.

Gulf South Commerce Park

The MOU between John Crosby and St. Tammany Corporation has been fully executed. The naming of the site is complete, and DCI is currently working on branding and marketing pieces in preparation for the Site Selectors Guild presentation in late March. Work has begun on streetscape and signage at the site as well as a new video and photography assets of the property that DCI will incorporate into current branding campaign and that St. Tammany Corporation will be able to use for future business attraction efforts. DCI will be on hand

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with a presentation on the State of Site Selection from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, at Northshore Technical Community College, just prior to the March Board of Commissioner meeting. Schouest detailed the effort in making a world class presentation at the Site Selectors Guild Meeting, March 29 – 31 in San Antonio.

Strategic Initiatives

Startup Northshore

The social media campaign has launched highlighting the collective work of STartUp Northshore. The StartUpNorthshore.com platform, a comprehensive resource hub for Northshore start-ups and second-stage companies, has also been launched. Expanding the digital infrastructure with this platform is a key component of our ongoing efforts to foster innovation and drive economic development in the Northshore region.

NOEW in Your Neighborhood New Orleans Entrepreneurship Week

STartUP Northshore’s first ever NOEW in Your Neighborhood event on the Northshore will be held on Monday, March 27, from 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Palmettos on the Bayou in Slidell. The goal of the program is to bring together local entrepreneurs, startup innovators, influential thinkers, investors, and creative individuals with a passion for business for an evening celebrating entrepreneurship on the Northshore. Through our established partnership with The Idea Village, the Northshore will play a specific role in the Gulf South’s premiere convening of entrepreneurship and innovation: New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW). Empowering Northshore Entrepreneurs is the Northshore’s first NOEW session hosted on the Northshore.

Impact Report

Llewellyn gave a brief presentation of what to expect with the upcoming Impact Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual ethics trainings & required documents have been emailed to Commissioners and Staff. Ethics trainings due March 31; Commissioner Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure due May 15.

The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be held from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday, March 16, at Northshore Technical Community College in Lacombe, preceded by the DCI presentation that begins at 1:30 pm

ADJOURN

*Joan Coffman, seconded by Bruce Javery, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. All were in favor.
Motion passed.*

Minutes reviewed and submitted by the STC Staff.