



## Board Meeting

**Date and Time: April 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road, Opelousas, LA  
70570**

### **AGENDA**

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Approval of April 09, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Approval of April 13, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Financial Report
  - Money Market Account
- ❖ Old Business:
  - CPEX Update - Janet Tharpe
    - Presentation of First Master Plan Draft
      - Next public input meeting to be held May 15, 2021  
St. Landry Parish Courthouse Grounds from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
  - ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2021
    - Roy Motors, 85 Years Anniversary, April 21, 2021
    - Bodemuller's Month of May 2021
  - City of Opelousas
    - Asphalt Art Initiative – Melanie LeBoeuf
    - Pedi Bike Trail Grant – Melanie LeBoeuf
  - Grant Program
    - Building Improvement Grant (B.I.G.) - Goal #4
    - Tap Grant Status - Goal #3
  - AT&T Cell Tower Status Goal #5
    - The Historical Commission approved Tower Permit and return to Planning Commission.
- ❖ New Business
  - Donald Gardner Stadium Project. Goal #7
    - CEA with City of Opelousas
    - Sustainability Partners Contract with City of Opelousas
  - New Money - 8 million dedicated funds by DOTD to the Vine Street, real estate acquisition for utility relocation (Hwy 190). Goal # 2
- ❖ Board Member Comments
- ❖ Adjourn

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Keith Broussard, Don D’Avy, Pat Fontenot, Robert Hillard and Sarah Branton

The following members were present virtually: None

The following member was absent: Ogden Pitre.

The following SLED members were present in person: Bill Rodier/CEO, Taylor Lormand/E.D.

Guest present in person were Melanie LeBouef/City Tourism

Janet Tharpe/CPEX was present virtually.

It was determined that a quorum was present and Chairwoman Lean Charles opened the meeting at 9:09am.

***Approval of March 2021, Meeting Minutes:*** A motion to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

***Approval of April 09, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes:*** A motion to approve the April 09, 2021, special meeting minutes was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Robert Hillard. Motion carried without objection.

***Approval of April 13, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes:*** A motion to approve the April 13, 2021, special meeting minutes was made by Robert Hillard and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

***Financial Report:*** Keith Broussard provided an overview of the March 2021 financials. A motion to accept the March 2021 financials was made by Don D’Avy and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

#### **Old Business:**

- ***CPEX Update:*** Janet Tharpe provided the board with an update on the CPEX Plan. Some of the items discussed were to include summary introductions in the front of the plan; creating a 4-to-6-page plan summary; feedback from the meeting with CPEX and the Opelousas Mayor; looking at a May 5<sup>th</sup> public input meeting; reconnecting with area high school students for their feedback; conversations on core areas of the plan also included:
  - Building inventory
  - Cultural Events
  - Reviewing and streamlining ordinances
  - Layout a process to review ordinances
  - Creating a sidewalk improvement program
  - Developing a program for entrepreneurs
  - Developing a cleanup initiative

- **ODD Business Recognition:** Chairwoman Lena Charles recognized Roy Motors for their 85 years of successfully doing business in Opelousas. She also noted the business of the month for the Month of May would be Bodemuller.
- **City of Opelousas:**
  - **Asphalt Grant** - Melanie Lebouef provided an update on her work to date with the grant. After discussion, the board agreed that Belview Street would be the best street to target for the artwork.
  - **Pedi Bike Trail Grant** – Melanie Lebouef provided an update on the current work being done with the grant and stated she would be getting with William Jarrell to work through some of the next components of the grant.
- **BIG Grant Update:** Sara Branton provided an update on the status of the grant. Chairwoman Charles informed the board the grant is currently under review by Bruce Gaudin the board attorney.
- **AT&T Tower:** Melanie Lebouef and Chairwoman Charles provided an update to the board that the location of the tower in downtown has been agreed upon the that the city approval process was now proceeding the planning committee at their next meeting.

**New Business:**

- **Donald Gardner Stadium Project** – Chairwoman Charles provided an update to the board on discussions with the city related to a CEA between the ODD and the city if the ODD were to provide a portion of the funding for the stadium. There was board discussion on the status of the St Landry Parish School Board considerations on providing matching funding. There were also board discussions on the Sustainability Partner Contract with the City of Opelousas as part of getting a better understanding of what products and services were being offered. The board agreed to stay engaged in the discussions with the City of Opelousas on the project and wait on any action with a legal agreement pending the outcome of a decision with this project by the St Landry Parish School Board.
- **Vine Street Project** – Chairwoman Charles provided an update to the board that through the cooperative efforts of both state and local leaders that there has been 8 million dollars allocated to the Vine Street Project through internal Capital Outlay Budget of LADOTD. These dollars will be targeted towards environmental studies, utility relocation and a real estate acquisition plan for utility right of way on the project.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, at 9:00 am at SLED.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman