

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

Those present: Miles Matt, Mike Delcambre, Lisa Thomas, Jim Keaty, Ross Fontenot, Gus Rezende and Greg Walls.

Those absent: None.

Staff present: Anita Begnaud, Hunter Hebert, Amy Trahan

Others present: Conrad Comeaux, Kate Durio, Geoff Daily, Michelle Colon, Samuel Oliver, Bruce Conque, Pat Lewis, André Breaux

The meeting was called to order by Matt.

Public comment cards were available on table in the back of room for anyone who wished to speak in regard to items on the agenda.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

August Minutes – The August Minutes were presented for approval. Matt amended the August minutes with a small wording change. Keaty motioned to approve as amended, Fontenot seconded, all voted in favor.

July Financial Statements – The July Financials were presented for approval. Matt noted that the DDA 2019 program budget document will have the Emergent money dedication at next meeting. No questions, Keaty motioned to approve the July Financial Statements as presented, Fontenot seconded, all voted in favor.

Millage Rate

Comeaux noted that downtown property valuations are down. Comeaux noted that DDA would need to increase its millage rate from 12.75 to 12.8 in order to maintain same revenues in 2020. Comeaux further noted that if no changes are made to the millage, there would be a decrease of approximately \$1,000 in revenue for DDA. Discussions continued.

Matt asked for a motion from a board member on the millage rate. Keaty made a motion for the DDA board to maintain current millage rate. Walls seconded, all voted in favor.

CEO Update

Buchanan redevelopment updates will take place at the October board meeting. Main Street project is moving forward. The Stage 0 scope will be discussed and finalized in the coming weeks.

DDA Public Investment Report

Daily gave an update on his initial findings regarding LCG investments in the Downtown area. Initial findings indicate that Public Works and LUS have not had any capital outlay projects in the Downtown area in many years. Daily noted that there is no maintenance tracking. Challenges for Downtown include limited funding, no census on priorities, amongst others. Discussions continued.

CREATE

Durio presented an overview of CREATE's mission. CREATE is a parish-wide initiative to support growth through improved access and participation in culture and recreation for residents and visitors in our community. Durio encouraged the DDA board and staff to bring projects or concepts to her office for possible collaboration.

Council report

Conque noted the need for strategic collaboration of DDA with the new City Council and the new Parish Council members.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.