

**Downtown Development District  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2019 – 4:00PM**

Meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm

**Members Present:** Carla Major, Michelle Craig, Jim Cook, Bill Hines, Judy Barrasso, Leo Marsh, Chris Ross, Jade Brown-Russell, Cleveland Spears

**Members Absent:** Joseph Bruno, Jr., Allison Tiller

**Staff/Counsel Present:** Kurt Weigle, Devona Dolliole, Leigh Ferguson, Richard McCall, Barbara Waiters, Anthony Carter, Gretta Bowman, Bill Aaron (Counsel)

**Other Staff Present:** n/a

**Members of the Public:** Bill Hammock, Coleman Ridley

**Notice:** The time, location, and agenda had been adequately and publicly noticed.

**Call for Public Input Cards:**

**Action Items**

- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2019
- Approval of 2018 Audit Report
- Approval of July 2019 Financial Report
- Adoption of 2019 Budget Reforecast

**Amendment of Agenda:** Kurt Weigle asked to amend presented Agenda to have Item IX. Presentation by Bill Hammack to be presented after VII. C to precede the presentation of the 2020 Proposed Budget.

**Adoption of Agenda – Action Item** – Commissioner Major requested a motion to adopt the Amended Agenda as requested by Kurt Weigle. Moved by Commissioner Jade Brown-Russell, supported by Commissioner Barrasso. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2019 – Action Item** - Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the August 6, 2019 meeting minutes as drafted. Moved by Commissioner Brown-Russell supported by Commissioner Barrasso. The motion carried unanimously.

Note: The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana statute (LA.R.S.42:6; 42:6.1).

## **Treasurers Report –**

**Approval of 2018 Audit Report – Action Item** - Anthony Carter summarized 2018 Audit per support documentation. Mr. Carter stated that as recommended per Audit, approved minutes from the DDD Board Meetings will be posted to website. Commissioner Brown-Russell asked where on website available. Devona Dolliole clarified under “About Us – Public Notice”. Commissioner Cook stated Audit reflects job well done. Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the 2018 Audit Report, Moved by Commissioner Barrasso; supported by Commissioner Brown-Russell. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of July 2019 Financial Reports – Action Item** – Anthony Carter presented July 2019 Financial Reports per support documents. Commissioner Major requested to receive information sooner. Discussion regarding lack of receipt of funds from Liquidation board since June 2019, and that no funds have been disbursed by Liquidation Board due to their new accounting program. Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve July 2019 Financial Reports moved by Commissioner Brown-Russell supported by Commissioner Spears. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of 2019 Budget Reforecast – Action Item** – Presented by Anthony Carter with support documents. Commissioner Major requested a motion to adopt 2019 Budget Reforecast, moved by Commissioner Spears, supported by Commissioner Brown-Russell. The motion carried unanimously

Kurt Weigle introduced Bill Hammack, Infrastructure Advisory Board Member & Coleman Ridley, BCNO. Mr. Hammack made a presentation in support of the Infrastructure Tax as a CBD business owner & resident and is asking support and for a YES vote in November on the Infrastructure Tax. Questions from Board asking for details of a plan to ensure the utilization of DDD funds serve CBD. Mr. Hammack stated he and Coleman Ridley will help to provide access & communication, as a bullet list of projects has been identified.

After presentation, uncertainty & frustration due to lack of information remains among Board regarding support of the tax. A discussion regarding the unrealistic timeline of Public Hearings, Budget, Millage & vote due to assessments and budget from the CNO, numerous factors currently unavailable from the CNO.

## **Chair’s Report**

**President’s Report** – Directors provided the attached reports.

**Economic Development** - Leigh Ferguson

**Communications** – Devona Dolliole

**Operations** – Richard McCall

**Public Affairs** – Barbara Waiters

Kurt Weigle presented 2020 Proposed Budget and PowerPoint. Discussion regarding shortfall represented in proposed budget and expected downward trend in the economy. Commissioner Major invited all to attend Finance & Executive Committee meeting where more in depth discussion takes place. Timeline for to provide and vote on budget discussed in light of variable factors not currently available from CNO discussed.

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**Old Business** – No old business

**New Business** – No new business

**Public Comments** - None

**Executive Session** – N/A

**Adjournment** - Commissioner Major motioned to formally adjourn meeting prior to Presentation of 2020 Budget to allow for discussion. Moved by Commissioner Hines, supported by Commissioner Barrasso. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:34 p.m. pm.

**\*Background documents attached**

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