

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
3:00PM Board Room**

Roll taken, Quorum present, call to order 3:04 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chris Ross, Leann Moses

**Members Absent:** Carla Major

**Other Board Members Present:** Gregory Curtis

**Staff/Counsel Present:** Anthony Carter, Scott Whittaker Stone Pigman (Counsel), Stuart Taylor

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

**Public Comments** – Letter received from Aaron J. Jordan on 3/29/22 addressing his concerns regarding Anthony Carter’s lack of credentials

**Action Items**

- Approval of March 7, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 2022 Financials
- Approval of 2021 DBE Audit Report
- Approval of 2020 Audit Report

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 7, 2022 – Action Item\*** - Commissioner Ross requested a motion to approve the March 7, 2022, Financial Meeting Minutes. Moved by Commissioner Moses; Supported by Commissioner Ross; Motion carried.

**Approval of February 2022 Financials – Action Item\*** - Mr. Carter presented the February financials based on unaudited 2020 and 2021 financials. The DDD had not received any ad valorem taxes from the city due to delays in sending out the tax bills. Expenses are as allotted. Commissioner Moses asked question regarding past years ad valorem taxes. Mr. Carter explained that most past due taxes have been collected and that the collections are matching the DDD records. Commissioner Ross asked that since the OPSE has not been able to fill out the detail officer commitments can we use the Orleans Parish Sheriff Office Deputies? Mr. Carter indicated yes we can, and the DDD staff is currently working on that. Commissioner Ross asked for a motion to approve the February 2022 Financials. Motion moved by Commissioner Moses, seconded by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried.

**Approval of DBE Audit Report – Action Item\*** - Mr. Carter presented the DBE compliance report for 2021. Explanations were given as to how report is compiled and the different categories used. Overall goal is 30% actual YTD goal was 42.4%. Board recommendations are for further verification of DBE standing and actual compliance. Commissioner would also like DDD to present in its marketing efforts the positive aspects of what working with DBE’s is achieving for the community. Commissioner Ross asked for a motion to approve the DBE Audit Report for 2021. Motion moved by Commissioner Moses, seconded by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried.

### **Approval of 2020 Audit Report – Action Item\* -**

Mr. Carter explained that the DDD did recently receive information for the 2020 audit and Luther Speight & Company Certified Public Accounts and Consultants was able to complete the audit prior to the current deadline, based on already approved extensions. The audit must be submitted to the state no later than March 31, 2022 otherwise a late filing finding will need to be added to the report. The completed draft audit report, which is attached, was presented to the Finance Committee by Luther Speight. Mr. Speight summarized the 41 pages of the report and was able to respond to all questions from the Finance Committee. Mr. Speight stated that the report was unqualified and that it was rare in his experience to find similar agencies with no findings. Questions were raised as to the limited time to review the report, and Mr. Carter and Mr. Speight both indicated that the limited review time was caused by the lateness in receiving the final ad valorem tax data. Legal counsel informed the Finance Committee that they do have the right to speak to CPAs without staff present. Recording was stopped and staff departed for 15 minutes while Finance Committee and CPA spoke with legal counsel present. Commissioner Ross asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Audit Report. Motion moved by Commissioner Moses, seconded by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried.

**Discussion of RFP for Sidewalk Cleaning and Public Space Maintenance Services.** – Options regarding approval of an extension of current contract, which concludes on 6/30/22, were discussed. There is only one extension remaining on this contract. If RFP process started today, DDD management does not believe that a new provider could be up and running day to day operations by 6/30/22. There is no provision for month-to-month extensions in the current contract with Block by Block. Commissioner Curtis, requested that each board member received the RFP for sidewalk cleaning and the proposal that Block by Block submitted. Commissioner Curtis explained that the board members need to know what is in the contract and what aspects are being completed and which are not. Commissioner Moses asked why Block by Block cannot produce a quarterly report and come in front of the full board and present their performance on the metrics set by the contract. The New Path program for homeless and recently incarcerated individuals, through which Block by Block was discussed by Mr. Carter. Commissioner Curtis further explained the benefits of New Path program. Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Moses and Commissioner Curtis all agreed that more needs to be done in communicating all the DDD programs to the public. Commissioner Ross proposed to amend the current renewal that begins on July 1, 2022.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Executive Session**

None

### **Adjournment**

Request for adjournment by Commissioner Ross, Motion by Commissioner Moses, Second by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried.