

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 31, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
DDD Ronald Gardner Board Room**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 2:37 p.m.

Members Present: Chris Ross, Carla Major

Members Absent: Leann Moses

Other Board Members Present: Gregory Curtis, Cleveland Spears

Staff/Counsel Present: Davon Barbour, Anthony Carter, Stuart Taylor, Tempest Woods, (Counsel) Scott Whittaker-Stone Pigman

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

Public Comments – N/A

Action Items

- Approval of April 27, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of April 2022 Financials

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2022 – Action Item* - Commissioner Ross requested a motion to approve the April 27, 2022, 2022, Financial Meeting Minutes. Moved by Commissioner Major; Supported by Commissioner Ross; Motion carried.

Approval of April 2022 Financials – Action Item* - Mr. Carter explained Ad valorem taxes collected in April were 179% of what was budgeted, but also placing us at 141% budgeted year to date, and 90% of the budgeted 2022 yearly total. Mr. Carter explained that overall expenses are in line with budget even though not all invoices have been received. Commissioner Ross asked about the variance in Economic Development, Mr. Carter explained it was due to a lack of staffing, hence many programs were not operating to planned capacity. The funding that was not used during that time is now being utilized to upgrade our technology and our systems of tracking property information within the district. Please note we do have the full dollar amount of the storm water infrastructure in escrow. Regarding our revenues the only item not collected is the RTA shelter cleaning which a new CEA has been signed. Commissioner Ross asked question regarding Streetscape Funding regarding \$150,000 with the WWII Museum, Mr. Carter explained that the WWII Museum may be picking up the design fees which will free up these funds.

Chairman Ross asked for a motion to approve the April 2022 Financials. Motion moved by Commissioner Major, seconded by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried.

Old Business

Mr. Carter brought up the status of Audit, most of the testing has been completed. Have received information from the city but a board meeting will be required near the end of June to approve the audit. Working as quickly as possible to get the draft to the board members at least 5 days to a week before the board meeting.

New Business

Chair Ross brought up that the Finance Committee bring up the discussion about the Block-by-Block cleaning contract. Commissioner Curtis discuss that the board should have a goal of amending the existing contract changes by September. President CEO Davon Barbour explained that the existing contract ends and can the current one be extended till the next board meeting in August. Commissioner Curtis brought up amending the extension using additional accountably items to hold Block by Block with some new responsibilities for this contract extension. Legal Counsel Scott Whittaker brought up that the contract does not allow for a 60-day extension, but that the board should allow the President/CEO to extend contract for 60 days if Block by Block is in agreement. Commissioner Curtis brought up the pay issues for Block by Block to their clean up crew which was locked at \$11.00 per hour for the life of the contract, that it needed to be address. Also, that the Finance committee is to recommend the contract extension changes for the final year of the contract to the board. Mr. Carter suggested that in the next RFP cleaning contract that a mechanism needs to be placed in the RFP to address the hourly pay increase due to rising inflation.

Commissioner Ross motioned for a recommendation for a sixty-day extension for the Block-by-Block cleaning contract. Aye's have it.

Commissioner Major asked a question about Unity for the Homeless and the working relationship with the DDD. Mr. Carter explained that much of the DDD's Homeless Outreach is handled by Travelers Aid and that the DDD is looking to hire an additional case worker to help with the program Downtown. Commissioner Curtis asked if we could show the number of homeless individuals we are assisting, and if would pass that information on to the DDD stakeholders.

Commissioner Ross asked about what is the DDD planning for Essence. Commissioner Major suggested working with the River Walk since Canal Place is already working with Essence. Commissioner Ross also asked about the pole banners, Mr. Carter responded that Essence already has booked the majority of the banners in the downtown area.

Mr. Carter brought up the use of Sheriff's Deputies as supplements for the NOPD officers, and indicated that it would be cost prohibitive due to insurance concerns. Since the Sheriff 's Office requested that the deputies be paid directly as contract labor, they would fall under the DDD insurance and not the Sheriff 's Office insurance. Mr. Carter stated if we were to do this the DDD would potentially lose its general liability coverage. The French Quarter association is using sheriff deputies through a third party which will be explored as an option for the DDD. Also looking at expanding the private security portion of policing with Pinnacle Security or hire a second security service.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

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