

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A  
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018.

Those present: Pat Trahan, Miles Matt, Gus Rezende, Lisa Thomas, Greg Walls, Donald Broussard and Bryant Poche.

Those absent: None.

Staff present: Jolene Harris, Hunter Heber and Brett Mellington.

Others present: Mike Delcambre, Bruce Conque, Pat Trahan, Captain Brad Ridge, Andre Breaux One Acadiana and Jaci Russo.

The meeting was called to order by Poche.

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

Administrative Approvals/Reports

Approvals

June Minutes – The June Minutes were presented for approval. Broussard motioned to approve the June Minutes as presented, Thomas seconded, all voted in favor.

May Financial Statements – The May Financials were presented for approval. Matt motioned to approve the May Financial Statements as presented, Broussard seconded, all voted in favor.

DDA Board Officers – Poche noted that Trahan was appointed to the Downtown Management Committee at the City Council meeting and therefore, he had to resign immediately from the DDA Board. With Trahan's departure, a new Chairman needed to be appointed to the board as well as a Secretary/Treasurer since Broussard's term would end the following month. Harris noted that Matt had sent out a letter to the DDA Board stating his desire to be the chairman and Thomas had also has shown interest in stepping in as the Secretary/Treasurer. It was further noted that unless there were any other board members that would like to be considered for those positions, an approval would be needed by the board to elect Matt and Thomas as the officers. Poche asked if there was a nomination for chairman of the DDA Board, Broussard nominated Miles Matt for chairman of the DDA Board, Walls seconded, all voted in favor. Poche asked for a nomination for the secretary/treasurer, Matt nominated Lisa Thomas for the secretary/treasurer of the DDA Board, Broussard seconded, all voted in favor. It was noted that Matt would need to appoint another DDA Board member for the executive committee which would be on the agenda for the following month.

Signature Authorization FY2018 – Harris noted that signatures needed to be in place for the remainder of 2018 with Trahan, Broussard and Dyer leaving; therefore, the new President, Matt and Secretary/Treasurer, Thomas needed to be approved as the signatures for DDA. Broussard motioned to approve Miles Matt and Lisa Thomas for authorized DDA signatures for the remainder of 2018, Walls seconded, all voted in favor.

Reports

DDA Board Appointments – Poche noted that his term would end on August 31 where he was not eligible for reappointment and Walls term would also end at the same time, but he was eligible for reappointment. Harris noted that these appointments had gone before the City Council on July 10 in which Walls was reappointed for another 3-year term but Poche's term was currently at a deadlock as there were only 8 council members at the meeting on July 10 in which 4 voted for Stephen Bartley and 4 for Jim Keaty. This appointment would be back on the City Council agenda for July 24 in hopes that all 9 members were present to vote. Harris further noted that the DLU Board had appointed Mike Delcambre to fill Broussard's term that would begin on September 1 and would also go before the City Council on August 7; the mayor's appointment to replace Pat Trahan could also go before the City Council at that same time.

Downtown Management Committee – Harris noted that Trahan had been selected to serve on the Downtown Management Committee as 1 of the 3 appointments available with 2 of those appointments still open. Trahan had been the only resume submitted for the July 10 meeting and the City Council had advertised once again for interested parties to submit resumes that would go before the council on August 7; the deadline to apply was July 24. It was further noted that the requirements for this committee was the same as those for the DDA board, they must own property or be an officer in the downtown of a business, and a registered voter of Lafayette parish. Discussions followed.

CEO Discussion – Poche noted that Dyer's last day would be August 10 and that he would be present at the meeting in August. It was further noted that Trahan had formed the selection committee which consisted of Miles Matt, Lisa Thomas and Greg Walls. Matt noted as the chairman, he would chair the selection committee and that he intended to bring on about 6 additional people outside of the DDA board to also sit on this committee. Discussions followed.

#### AT&T Pole Removal

Poche noted that his office had done research on a block on Vermilion St. to see what could be done on the abandoned power lines and street poles no longer in use. Contacting AT&T, they identified those abandoned and gave a proposal to remove the poles/lines which was discussed at the June board meeting. The DDA board had requested to do further research for original paperwork to ensure that AT&T was not responsible for removing poles/lines that were no longer in use. After researching, the contract was produced between Bell South at that time and LCG, which showed there were no requirement for Bell South/AT&T to remove or cover the cost to remove any poles or lines. A new proposal had been submitted and emailed to all board members in which AT&T had lowered the cost for removing 6 poles along one block to include all the lines which came to \$6,596.44. Discussions followed with the suggestion for DDA to move forward for this block to be the pilot program and also determine all other abandoned poles/lines in the downtown that could be identified in section by section basis which could possibly get LCG involved to help with the cost. It was suggested for Hebert to work on surveying the downtown for all areas of abandoned poles/lines and report back to the board in August. It was further noted that AT&T had removed abandoned lines on Buchanan Street at no charge. Discussions continued with the board in agreement to support this project as a pilot program. Miles motioned to move forward with the proposal submitted by AT&T in the amount of \$6,596.44 as a pilot program, Walls seconded, all voted in favor.

#### Reports/Updates

Initiative Updates – There were no updates at this time.

Capital Improvements Discussion – There were not updates at this time.

Operations Brief – Hunter noted that the pressure washing on Jefferson Street had begun and should be completed at some point the following week. The company that was contracted had noted that the bricks needed to be resealed and the gum removal was also included in the price which would be completed once the initial pressure washing was finished. Hunter also noted that he would like to contract to have the graffiti removed with Harris making note that there were chemicals that DDA had always ordered for public works to remove the graffiti that she would check into getting a supply. Poche inquired about the barricades which were used to close streets down for late night and left on the sidewalks when not in use and if there could be a solution to remove those or store in a more remote location instead of in front of store shops. Discussions followed with the suggestions to get with the officers to put on the side streets. Conque noted there was another option that was used on Simcoe Street for their late night where posts were installed instead of using the barricades. The posts were removable in which is seen at Iberia bank. The posts were smaller than the barricades and not as visible but still had to be stored. Discussions continued.

Business Development – There were no updates at this time.

Other Business – Conque noted that an ordinance was being considered which proposed for the creation of two separate councils, one for the city and one for the parish. The consolidated government would remain in place and the mayor-president. The point of contention had become the downtown area. Conque further noted that because of the way of restrictions, for example being under the voting rights act of 1964, the first thing that had to be looked at was the majority/minority district and the other consideration that came into play was Nanette Cook and Liz Hebert's districts which had to be brought within the city limits. In order to make the adjustments they had to take everything from district 6 to be realigned so that everything east of Johnston Street was given to district 7 and 8, this forced the situation in order to make the numbers work, they had to add population to district 6 which included downtown and thus became the contentious area. In order for this to pass, 6 votes were needed and Pat Lewis was concerned that he would lose downtown which would end up in Kenneth Boudreaux's area. Currently, the plan had been presented to Lewis and were waiting on a response. The current issue was how to realign two districts, 1 and 5 in order that Lewis could be the representative for downtown. Discussions followed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.