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OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
TERREBONNE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

President Chad Hebert called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mrs. Dawn Henry.

Members recorded as present were: Mr. Tommy Guarisco, Mr. Chad Hebert, Mr. Nicholas Hebert, Mr. Ronald LaBauve, Mr. Michael LaGarde and Mr. Chris Lapeyre. Those recorded as absent were Mr. Robert Barthel, Dr. Michael Garcia, and Mr. Ivan Williams. Also present were Mr. Matt Rookard, TEDA's CEO; Mrs. Dawn Henry, TEDA's executive secretary, Mr. Kerry Chauvin, past board member, and Ms. Martha Cazaubon, Planner at South Center Planning and Development Commission.

President Hebert welcomed our newest board member Mr. Michael LaGarde appointee of the Parish Council. Mr. LaGarde gave a brief synopsis of his life. President Hebert gave an award of recognition to Mr. Kerry Chauvin for his past service on the Board of Directors. Due to no quorum at the last meeting, the February minutes are up for approval. Mr. Lapeyre moved, seconded by Mr. Labauve, to approve the February 14, 2017 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lapeyre moved, seconded by Mr. Guarisco to approve the March 14, 2017 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. N. Hebert presented the February financial reports. The only out of normal expenditure was the \$37,500, that was the prior approved Nicholls and Small Business Development Center position. Motion by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. N. Hebert to approve the February financial reports as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. N. Hebert stated March's financial reports are all in line with normal monthly expenditures. Motion by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Guarisco to approve the March financial reports as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rookard reported TEDA received a letter addressed to the board from the Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission regarding the Vision 2030 plan to expand some zoning areas in the major growth corridors of the parish. Prior to putting this through the public process, they are requesting TEDA's input on the potential impact this may have on economic development. Mr. Rookard drafted a letter on the path forward for TEDA to host a business and real estate roundtable and have the Houma-Terrebonne Planning Commission and South Central Planning there to make their presentation to the business groups, answer questions and receive feedback. TEDA's board members will be invited. Mr. Rookard reported we are finally starting to hear some good news with jobs increasing according to the February jobs report. For much of the year, we were

losing 500-800 jobs per month which totaled 6,800 throughout the year. Most recently there were 500 hired in February; Companies are starting to diversify with a Chinese company opening a new petrochemical company in the river corridor, some companies that traditionally service the oil and gas markets are looking at ways to start servicing some of the petrochemical projects; Legislative issues on taxing the service sector will be real impactful. We will be closely monitoring these issues to see the impacts they could have on Terrebonne Parish; RFP's are still coming in. We are going to be a Louisiana finalist for a mid-size aviation manufacturing project. We have submitted a few properties and were chosen as one of three finalists. That would potentially create 50 high paying jobs.

President Hebert asked if TEDA had been approached by anyone to support or go against the gas tax. Mr. Rookard has not heard from anyone on the gas tax. If you oppose the tax, you are opposing future infrastructure, that's why other economic developers are supporting it.

Mr. K. Chauvin stated one of the main issues that will be devastating to Terrebonne Parish would be the proposed tax on your revenues instead of on your earnings. Governor Roemer tried to do away with the four percent offshore tax exemption in the past when he was in office and all the work went to Texas. The tax was a two percent tax on everything that was going offshore. It was finally repealed. If they start putting taxes on revenues, that will devastate companies that are already depressed in this area. Mr. Rookard reported TEDA filed a grant application for a Seafood Marketplace with the efforts led by Mrs. Katherine Gilbert-Theriot and Mrs. Henry. The proposal is for approximately \$250,000 over a 3-year period with no match. This is how the Delcambre Seafood Market was originally funded. The grant is to fund a monthly seafood market where fresh seafood can be purchased at a designated area, same concept as a farmers' market. There will be approximately 8 markets per year. TEDA is also involved in the new Terrebonne Seafood festival initiative and there really are no resources for this festival. If we receive this grant, one of the monthly markets will be held in conjunction with the festival, so the funds for that market will help facilitate the festival. We should find out in September if the grant is approved. Mr. Rookard reported we are now in a place to start aggressively marketing TEDA. There will be about 7 conferences Mr. Rookard will attend with the first one being the biggest retail convention in North American where the developers of retail space go to figure out where their next target markets are.

Mr. Rookard presented information he received from Dr. Garcia on the Chamber of Health, an entity with grant funding that will go after some key outcomes of health for the community. They go after the leaders of the community to come up with an alliance that can start working the various initiatives. This will be run through the Chamber who will champion the

outreach to the various industries and committees.

Mr. Rookard announced they will have a public meeting on Thursday afternoon for the Seafood Festival and welcomes any one that wants to participate.

Mr. Guarisco asked if TEDA was involved in any way with the conflict between South Central Planning and the parish on the permitting. Mr. Rookard stated TEDA was not involved directly, but it was possible if the parish took over the permitting, if there were a shortfall, it would come out of the Economic Development funding. President Hebert asked if the funding from the parish had been received. Mr. Rookard stated there has been no indication when the funding would start flowing other than it supposed to start in April.

Mr. Guarisco inquired about the outstanding loans to TEDA and if they were up to date. Mr. Rookard reported there is currently one loan outstanding, E&L Granite, and the loan is currently behind but he is making payments when possible. Mr. Rookard met with him approximately 45 days ago and he stated he is trying to get caught up. President Hebert asked that this item to be put on next month's board meeting agenda and all info on this item be brought to the meeting.

Mr. Guarisco asked if there are any grants for businesses. Mr. Rookard stated there is little to no grant money for new, private entity businesses. There are some incentives for certain entities but depends on the entity.

Mr. N. Hebert moved at 1:03 p.m., seconded by Mr. T. Guarisco, to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chad Hebert, President

Dawn Henry, Minute Clerk

