

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025, at 7:30 AM. LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSESSOR OFFICE, 213 VERMILION STREET

Present: Denice Skinner, Rex Moroux, Kim Ledet, Dave Domingue, Emily Hamner, Melinda Taylor.
Absent: Jaci Russo.

Melinda Taylor called the meeting to order for the limited purpose of electing a Secretary-Treasurer. Public comment process is attached to the end of the agenda for individuals wishing to address the Board on agenda items. Request to speak must be submitted prior to the discussion of the item. Individuals are allowed three minutes for comments.

Board Election to Fill Vacant Secretary-Treasurer Role

Taylor opened the floor for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. Dave Domingue nominated Denice Skinner, Emily Hamner seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

Motion by Hamner to approve minutes from the Sept. 17, 2025 board meeting, and to acknowledge receipt and review of 2025 YTD budget-to-actual report. Second by Domingue. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Review of DRAFT FY2026 Budget

- Budget process and timeline: draft reviewed in October; final to be presented in November for Board approval; submission to City Council in December for ratification.
- Revenues: ad valorem taxes projected roughly at last year's level pending final assessor data; rental income line now active based on Sans Souci lease collections.
- Payroll/retirement correction: LCG earlier placed CEO on incorrect retirement system; that has been corrected and approximately \$25,000 reimbursement to DDA expected from LCG.
- Facilities: proposal to increase rent/occupancy from ~\$9,000 annually to ~\$48,000 (~\$4,000/month) to align with office relocation needs.
- Surplus: draft reflects ~\$96,000 surplus, inclusive of a 2% COLA for three DDA employees and associated costs.
- DDA/DLU alignment: continued segregation of duties; DLU reimbursement to DDA aligned to Downtown Parcs Network management rather than generic admin support.

CEO Update

- Hotel Lafayette: construction underway (slab/demo and soils work completed); utilities burial along Lee Avenue under discussion (EDD/LUS/developer cost-share) with CEA to follow.
- Taylor Street Plaza: concept complete; matching funds in upcoming LCG budget; target to advance to construction drawings and phase with hotel schedule.
- Downtown Urban Core Redevelopment Plan: advisory committee hold for Nov 19; pursuing final \$500,000 EDD match; CivicCon outreach (Quint Studer).

- Grouse Room property: sheriff's sale concluded; lender to market asset; future bar/nightclub use would require conditional use permit.
- Office space search: multiple tours; potential lease LOI expected; appraisal ordered on a blighted property as part of parallel redevelopment discussion.
- Lee Avenue: received Louisiana APA recognition; coordinating annual state capital outlay re-application.
- Mardi Gras logistics: collaborating with LCG/LPD on Jefferson route; obtaining quotes for protective wraps for new landscape beds and related mitigations.

DLU Update

Jessica Hauerwas reported Downtown Alive!, Bach Lunch, and the transition to manage Gulf Brew starting 2026 (shadowing ACA this year). Holiday season will emphasize promotions of retailer/restaurant activations alongside the kickoff concert. Fête & Feast (fall fundraiser) set for Sunday, Nov 2 with collaborating restaurants. Walking tour series launched (~25 attendees) with additional tours scheduled through year-end.

Updates

- Lafayette Police Department: Lt. Rummel reported a new Mardi Gras route (Cypress to Jefferson to Johnson) will be pursued by the city; barricades will not remain deployed downtown for two weeks between parades (deploy/pick-up). Merchant communications underway; tree-trimming and other preparations were discussed. Graffiti enforcement continues; chalk tagging typically not prosecuted but helps identify offenders linked to paint incidents; businesses encouraged to share camera footage.

Public Comment

Jeff Johnson requested a copy of the draft budget and asked about public posting/notice. Staff noted the draft will be posted on the DDA website prior to November consideration and will be shared broadly. Johnson also commented on Mardi Gras barricade practices; no action taken.

Other Business

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.