PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026, AT 7:30 AM, LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSESSOR CONFERENCE ROOM, 213 W. VERMILION STREET, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

Present: Russo, Skinner, Moroux, Supple, Hamner, Taylor
Absent: Ledet

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by Chair Jaci Russo. The Chair reminded attendees public comment would be available at the end of the meeting on any DDA-related topic or agenda action item. Comment cards were available, and comments were limited to three minutes per item.

Board Materials for Approval

The Chair noted that the July 15, 2026 meeting was canceled for lack of quorum. Skinner moved, with a second from Hamner, to approve the June 17, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes and accept the Budget-to-Actuals Financial Report for review. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Financial Audit

A representative of Kolder, Slaven & Company presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2025 audit and reported no findings related to internal control or compliance. Revenues totaled approximately $1.51 million, about two percent under the final budget and within the variance allowed by state law, and expenditures totaled approximately $1.45 million, about $60,000 under budget. The increases in intergovernmental revenue and in expenditures over the prior year were primarily attributable to items reimbursed by the Downtown Lafayette Economic Development District, including the Sans Souci building purchase, the Downtown Ambassador Program, and streetscape and landscaping work. Revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately $58,000, and the year-end fund balance was approximately $742,000.

The board discussed the effect of tax-exempt property on ad valorem collections, and staff agreed to report back on the percentage of downtown property that is not taxable. No action was required.

Resolution Adopting and Levying the 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Millage

Chief Executive Officer Kevin Blanchard presented Resolution 2026-08-01, adopting and levying the 2026 ad valorem tax millage of 15.17 mills for the Lafayette Centre Development District, which maintains the millage at its current rate. The resolution was adopted on a roll call vote. Yeas: Russo, Skinner, Moroux, Supple, Hamner, Taylor. Nays: None. Absent: Ledet.

The Lafayette Parish Assessor advised that, after accounting for a building removed from the tax roll last year following its acquisition by Lafayette Consolidated Government, real estate values in the district were essentially flat and personal property values had increased approximately ten percent. He advised that revenue should be no worse than neutral in the coming year, pending public service property values from the Louisiana Tax Commission.

Resolution Adopting a Mid-Year Amendment to the FY2026 Budget

Blanchard presented Resolution 2026-08-02, adopting the mid-year amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 budget reviewed by the board at its June 17, 2026 meeting. The amendment recognizes pass-through revenues associated with third-party contracts with the Downtown Ambassador Program, together with offsetting program expenditures, and corrects the Fiscal Year 2026 beginning fund balance to the audited Fiscal Year 2025 ending fund balance of $741,857. Hamner moved, with a second from Skinner, to adopt the resolution. The motion passed unanimously. The amendment will be submitted to the Lafayette City Council for ratification.

CEO Update

Blanchard reported that the DDA had completed its office move. On the Downtown Urban Core Redevelopment Plan, he reported that the administration had transmitted a draft agreement, which he had not yet reviewed, under which the City's funds, and potentially the matching Economic Development District funds, would be held at the Community Foundation of Acadiana, with the DDA contracting with the Foundation for the work. He also shared planning documents from the City's first downtown redevelopment effort in the early 1980s.

He further reported on conditional use permits for bars and nightclubs downtown, including a location that was not granted a bar permit and has since been permitted to operate on a bring-your-own-beverage basis, and a new application for the former Bliss location. He noted that the conditions had already been proposed by the City to the applicant, prior to the City getting input from any other parties.

DLU Update

Jessica Hauerwas reported on fall programming, including partnerships with downtown businesses and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for an event the following week. She reported on planning for Gulf Brew on September 19, the first year the event will be produced by DLU, including an adjusted footprint, a food court, non-alcoholic options, and live music, with the event ending before that evening's UL football game. She also reported that DLU will begin hosting informal town hall meetings for downtown businesses and residents.

Updates

Downtown Ambassadors: Staff reported on landscaping maintenance, an increase in trash and broken glass as downtown becomes busier, a decrease in graffiti, and an increase in stickers and flyers.

Public Comment

No public comment cards were submitted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.