



625 Texas Street, Suite 200 | Shreveport, LA 71101
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Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, February 17, 2023 (9:30 AM)

625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present

Mayor Tommy Chandler, Vice Chair – City of Bossier City
Mr. Steven Brown – DeSoto Parish
Mr. Charles Henington – Caddo Tax Assessor
Ms. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish
Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport

Members Absent

Mr. Bruce Blanton, Chair – Webster Parish
Mr. Butch Ford – Bossier Parish

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Ms. Savannah Williams – NLCOG
Dr. Shelly Barrett - NLCOG
Ms. Rita Arnold – NLCOG
Ms. Heidi Stewart – NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

Mr. Rogers wanted to inform the board of Mr. Blanton’s absence due to upcoming open-heart surgery the following week and will be out for a while.

Call to Order

Mayor Chandler called the meeting to order Mr. Rogers then began a roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mayor Chandler called for public comments. Mr. Rogers stated we received one public comment.

David Hackney - public comment is attached to minutes.

Financial - Quarterly

Approval of Financial Report for July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Mr. Rogers stated that he had emailed a revised version of the quarterly financials the day before and that we are on track with basically everything in terms of expenses. On the assets side they are continuing to maintain roughly the 1.2 million. In terms of the liability and equity, the only thing Ms.

Barnette had brought to his attention is that there are a couple of areas they may need to make some amendments on at the next meeting. Mr. Rogers stated that from some of the recommendations from the auditor last time, through the audit process they had charged travel and he said should be professional development so there may be some adjustments with those two. The tension in the supplies since the cost of everything has gone up may need some adjustments as well. Mayor Chandler called for a motion to accept the Quarterly Financial Report as presented. Mayor Arceneaux motioned, and Ms. Bryant seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

Fiscal Year 2024 Income and Census Related Data (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Mr. Rogers stated that this was more informational for FY2024 reminding them that Fiscal Year is from July to June. He says that from Federal Highway and Federal Transit that there will be a decrease in the planning funds next year of roughly a forty-two thousand dollar decrease. Mr. Rogers stated that he has outlined some of the anticipated other expenses. There are some changes on a couple of these in terms of the STBG Funds and the Reserve Funds. He says the only reason there is a difference is that the last time the STBG Funds went towards the aerial photography project which was the substantial entire amount. Mr. Rogers said the biggest overall difference for Operational expenses will be the change in terms of the Federal Highway PL funds and the Federal Highway Transit funds. He explained that how that works is the PL funds are distributed by the percentage of the Urban population from the 2020 Census Urban Population vs 2010 Census Urban Population. The 2020 Urban Population Census of our area vs the Urban population areas of the State is unfortunate because they've changed the way they define the urban areas. Previously is primarily population based and they've added a new factor that's housing density based. Mr. Rogers stated that they've looked at some of the numbers in some of the areas and they are going to contest it. He directed them to the slide to show that for the planning factor funds showing our area factor change was estimated at -0.61% change and when the PL funds come into the state those funds are distributed out by those population factors. With the change in population factor there will be a deduction in those funds for our area. The other portion of that is along with that, because we are an area of over 200 thousand population, there are attributable funds we have including the STBG and 200k funds. Mr. Rogers stated that the cost of inflation and a decrease in funds will hit hard. He pointed out the map, that was included in their packets, that would show why they wanted to contest the Census. NLCOG had imagery taken the same time as the Census imagery was taken deliberately so they would have something to show if there were any differences. Mr. Rogers points out and describes what the Census allows for what they call hops and jumps where one of them is a mile and the other a mile and a half. One particular area Mr. Rogers was pointing out is less than half a mile which means the two Urban areas would be joined and an additional fifty-five hundred that would be included in our Urban area population. He states that if you go back and include those numbers into the Urban area population it will make a big difference in terms of that percentage and what percentage of funding would be available to that area.

Legal Report

Mr. Chevallier states that he's been asked to provide a status of the memorandum of understanding that was executed and approved by the board in January 2021 concerning the ultimate and potential merger of NLCOG and the Coordinating Development Corporation (CDC). He says the aim of that MOU was to ultimately bring the planning district, CDC, under the umbrella of NLCOG so there was one unified entity for both the MPO and planning district here in northwest Louisiana which would be consistent, from his understanding, with the way those are developed in other parts of the state. Mr. Chevallier states that the reason for entering the MOU at the time of January 2021 was because of a grant application made to the EDA for funding of a building to house the ultimate entity, which was related to the Covid Relief fund that was created for the funding. He continues to say that in the intervening two years we have not really made significant, in his opinion, progress concerning reaching an ultimate merger that can actually be implemented. Mr. Chevallier states that they've had some meetings and have had due diligence request out as NLCOG would be the ultimate entity and they're trying to get some sense as to what they would exactly need in order to effectively put together a real plan of merger. He says the MOU amounts to in all practical respects to an agreement to agree and was predicated and asked by the EDA in order to facilitate that grant application. Along with the MOU there was a resolution of the board and letter sent to the EDA in coordination with the grant application potentially setting aside eighty thousand dollars in reserve for NLCOG to be made available for potential match funding for the construction of the building. At that time there was no CA or contractual arrangement put in place as to how the money was going to become available, how it would be called upon, and what it would be utilized for. Today, no funds have been utilized for that project. In Mr. Chevallier's opinion, any use of any funds of NLCOG for a construction contract that NLCOG is not a party to, would obviously require a CEA to be put in place before any of that was done in order to avoid any donations or misappropriations of funds issues. He states that right now his recommendation to the board is that NLCOG isn't in a position to make any funds subject to that resolution available. He would like to convene a special meeting of the board to spend more time in depth considering the MOU and the best path forward for NLCOG concerning any potential merger with CDC in light of all of the changes to bring it to everyone at one meeting if he possibly can. Mr. Chevallier says he thinks it's imperative given the amount of changeover that we have everyone in the room for that meeting. Mr. Skaggs asked if he could make a public comment and states that the grant for two million dollars was approved. He says the CDC put up three hundred twenty thousand dollars in match and NLCOG's part was eighty thousand of that match to go into this building to start unifying the area.

Other Business

1. Approval of Minutes

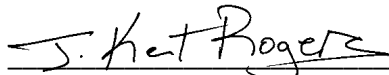
The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes from the January 17, 2023 meeting. Mayor Chandler called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Arceneaux was the first to motion, and Ms. Bryant seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

Announcements

Mr. Rogers stated that they previously applied for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action plan grant. He said they've been reaching out through the safety program trying to get some funding for actual projects and since came back and said they had to have a regional safety plan to get the actual implantation grants. And in terms of those granted in the State of Louisiana, NLCOG was granted the largest. Mr. Rogers stated they were just awarded that and are going through the process with DOTD and Federal Highway in getting those funds involved and what that will in tale is more some of the local roads and some of the high incident locations and solving some of those problems. They are coming up with some projects to implement for those along with the ones they already have, and this will help provide to get this done.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, The Vice Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Arceneaux was the first to motion, and Mr. Henington seconded. The meeting was adjourned.



J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

All cards must be returned to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Comments will not be accepted during the meeting. You will be called upon at the appropriate time to speak.

Please print:

Date: Feb 17, 2023

Name: David Hackney

Address: 9660 Railsback Ridge Shreveport 71106

E-mail: davehackcvx@gmail.com

Phone: (318) 210-1475

I am representing: myself business organization

Name of business / organization: _____

Comment on: Agenda item Non-agenda item

Briefly describe your comment(s):

Tim James, Inc road & bridge

As a reminder, public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Comments relative to any issues that are in active litigation will not be heard in this meeting.

Speakers are to address the Chairman, not each other or the audience, and are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The use of abusive or profane language shall not be allowed. No debate or argument between speakers and/or members of the audience shall be permitted.

February 17, 2023

My name is Dave Hackney and I am a Shreveport resident, living in the Esplanade subdivision. I am a retired petroleum engineer and a registered professional engineer in the State of Louisiana. I grew up on Barksdale AFB and I am a Bossier High graduate. I have roots on both sides of the Red River.

On February 8th, I emailed my Caddo Parish Commissioner, John Adkins, asking if there was any news on the Tim James, Inc toll bridge and road proposal. Mr. Adkins promptly replied that he had not heard anything, but was anticipating an update soon.

On February 9th, Commissioner Adkins sent me an email, stating that the Tim James, Inc team had an "update meeting" at the Caddo-Bossier Port. I asked Commissioner Adkins who attended the meeting and was told representatives from Shreveport, Bossier City, Caddo and Bossier Parishes and perhaps a few others.

Also on February 9th, I had a phone call with Eric England, Executive Port Director, Caddo-Bossier Port. Mr. England told me he attended the Tim James, Inc. meeting and told me about some of the issues discussed and the engineering challenges involving the river, levees, Louisiana Highway 1 and the railroad, all in close proximity.

The attendee group sounded a lot like NLCOG, so that is the reason I am here today.

When a meeting involving public officials, held at a tax payer supported facility occurs, why isn't the general public notified and invited?

Is there any public record or minutes from the February 8th meeting?

I would encourage and request public officials to be more transparent on this project. I would like to commend both Commissioner Adkins and Director England for always being prompt and professional in responding to my information requests.

David F Hackney, P.E.

Shreveport, LA