



**Build Baton Rouge Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023

**Place:** 757 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Time:** 9:00 A.M.

**Minutes**

**Attending Board Members:** Rodney Braxton, Chairman; Charles Landry, Vice Chair; Suzanne Turner, Secretary; Bobby Hamilton (each, a "Commissioner")

**Not Attending:** Will Campbell, Treasurer

**Also attending:** Gretchen Siemers, Vice President; Kendra Hendricks, Senior Manager of Economic Development and Finance; Tricia Prewitt, BBR Office Coordinator; Amanda Robertson, V.Graham; Kincaid Jackson, Kean Miller; Helena Cunningham, BBR Consultant; Harold Joseph II

**Meeting Called by:** Rodney Braxton

**Type of Meeting:** Build Baton Rouge (BBR) Board of Commissioners – Regular Meeting

**Note Taker:** Tricia Prewitt

❖ **Action Item**

- Mr. Braxton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Mr. Braxton confirmed receipt of proof of notice of meeting and the posting of public notice.
- Mr. Braxton confirmed the number of Board Commissioners present and the constitution of a majority.
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners October 19, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Landry made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Hamilton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- Motion from Mr. Landry to move up budget motions for CCEDD and BBR, to vote on before Mr. Braxton had to leave. Ms. Turner seconded the motion.

❖ **Discussion Item: Budget**

- Ms. Robertson presented the YTD profit-loss actual vs. budget, program statement of activity, and cashflow projections for the period ended October 31, 2023. Ms. Robertson reported that October ytd results, revenue and income are in line with expectations, expenses are a little bit less than budget, and there are no concerns. There were no objections.



- The Board was given the proposed budget for 2024 for review.
- ❖ **Discussion Item: Administrative Update/Land Bank**
  - Mr. Braxton appraised the board of his efforts on finding a new CEO for Build Baton Rouge. Mr. Braxton handed out a drafted resolution to be reviewed by Board before December meeting, which included an outline of public process to find a new President and CEO. Mr. Braxton entertained a discussion on the outline. Ms. Siemers requested putting out an RFP for a headhunter to assist and finding the right candidate, as BBR is currently only staffed with 3 people, and outside help is needed for this search and vetting process.
  - Ms. Siemers updated the board on Ardendale, with input from Mr. Kincaid. The board discussed the plan in progress to continue to work with the OCD. Mr. Braxton requested from Mr. Jackson clear guidelines on the two proposed options for resolving the grant payback issues before the December meeting, so that the Board may make an informed decision. Ms. Turner requested an impact plan for the neighboring properties, to keep the mission of the project on point.
- ❖ **Action Item: Resolution and Adoption**
  - After a discussion of CAFA modified terms and adoption of resolution to grant authority to Mr. Braxton to execute loan modification documents, Mr. Jackson handed out certification of authority resolution. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Turner. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion.
  - Ms. Siemers explained the Adoption of resolution for compliance with Louisiana Act 12 and Other Reporting Requirements for 2023-2024. This is a new law. The resolution gives acting staff the authority to make the reports. A motion was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Ms. Turner and Mr. Hamilton.
- ❖ **Discussion Item:**
  - Public Comment: Harold Josph, a member of the public, introduced himself and gave the Board a brief overview of his nuisance wildlife business and explained that he was at the meeting to learn what BBR does. His end goal is to put a new wildlife plan in new developments.
- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment**
  - Mr. Braxton made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned the regular meeting at 9:45 a.m. The Board was invited to stay for a presentation regarding the Florida Corridor Plan.