

**Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority  
Special Call Meeting**

Minutes: Meeting of Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Present: Dr. Curtis Lewis, Vice-Chair; Mr. John Carroll; Mr. Chris Patel; Mr. Ronald Morgan; Mr. Steven R. McGee; Mr. Earl Williams, Jr.

Absent: Mr. John Callis

The monthly regular meeting of the Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority was called to order by Commissioner Lewis at 8:15 a.m. Receptionist , Kiana Siders called the roll. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the February 2025 Consent Agenda. A discussion was held. There being no further comments, motion passed by unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the February 2025 Executive, Administration and Legal Committee Special Call Meeting Minutes. A discussion was held. There being no further comments, motion passed by unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the February 2025 Economic Development Committee Special Call Meeting minutes. There being no further comments, motion passed by unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Morgan to approve a substitute motion to ratify and confirm the Employment Contract Issued to Ms. Angela Varnado. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve a substitute motion to authorize the Issuance of a New Employment Contract for Ms. Angela Varnado. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to Authorize Legal Counsel to File a Motion to Dismiss the Pending Litigation on the Grounds of Mootness.

A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner McGee to authorize the name change on the Certificates of Deposits (CD's) held at Red River Bank from former Executive Director, Clifford J. Moller to the new Executive Director, Angela Varnado and to furthermore; add Chairman Curtis Lewis. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: Yes

Commissioner Patel: Yes

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 6 votes.

The Motion to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Explore Alexandria/Pineville in an amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for meals and advertising/marketing and Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for fireworks shows at the Louisiana Future Farmers of America (FFA) conference to be held May 30- June 2025 was placed on hold until the March 18, 2025 Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Rapides Symphony Orchestra in an amount not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the 2025 Concert Series. A discussion was held.

A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Alexandria Museum of Art in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the 2025 Exhibition Series. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with River Oaks Square Arts Center in an amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the 2025 Exhibition Series. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner McGee to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Arts Council of Central Louisiana in an amount not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the 2025 Performing Arts Series. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Morgan to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Central Louisiana Juneteenth Association in an

amount not to exceed Fourteen Thousand Dollars for the 2025 Programs. A discussion was held.

A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

The Motion to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the 2025 Programs was placed on hold until the March 18, 2025 Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner McGee to approve a grant request from Louisiana State University (LSUA) in an amount not to exceed Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) to assist with bid fees for the Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) to be held February 27-March 2, 2025. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

The Motion to approve a grant request with Kent Plantation House in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for advertisement and marketing of the Le Tour De Bayou to be held September 19-20, 2025 was placed on hold until the March 18, 2025 Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve a grant request from Louisiana State University (LSUA) in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to assist with meals, advertisement and marketing of the LSUA Tennis Tournament to be held March 27-30, 2025. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: No

Commissioner Patel: No

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve a grant request from Friends of Bringham in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to assist with meals, green fees and advertisement and marketing of the Bayou Invitational to be held March 29-30, 2025. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes  
Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: No  
Commissioner Patel: No  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes  
Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner McGee to approve a grant request from Manna House in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for meals and advertisement and marketing of the AM Pro Tour to be held on April 2-5, 2025. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes  
Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: No  
Commissioner Patel: No  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes  
Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve a grant request from Citywide Interdenominational Crusade in an amount not to exceed Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) for advertisement and marketing of the City-Wide Revival to be held April 21-24, 2025. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes  
Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: No  
Commissioner Patel: No  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes  
Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Morgan to approve a grant request from the Louisiana Taxidermists Association in an amount not to exceed Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) for meals and advertisement and marketing of the Annual Convention to be held on May 15-18, 2025. A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: No  
Commissioner Patel: No  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes  
Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

The motion to approve a grant request from the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the State Convention to be held June 26-29, 2025, was placed on hold until the March 18, 2025 Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve a grant request from the Louisiana Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the Council of Admin Meeting to be held August 22-24, 2025. . A discussion was held. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes  
Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: No  
Commissioner Patel: No  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes  
Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 4 to 2 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to not approve a grant request for the Woman of Valor “ It had to Happen” event to be held on May 18, 2025. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes  
Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: Yes  
Commissioner Patel: Yes  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes  
Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 6 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee and seconded by Commissioner Williams to not approve a grant request for the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F & AM 214th Annual Grand Lodge Session to be held April 25-28, 2025. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes  
Commissioner McGee: Yes  
Commissioner Williams: Yes  
Commissioner Carroll: Yes  
Commissioner Patel: Yes  
Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 6 votes.

It was moved by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Williams to not approve a grant request from the La State Association Daughters of Elks 98th State Convention to be held June 19-22, 2025. A roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lewis: Yes

Commissioner McGee: Yes

Commissioner Williams: Yes

Commissioner Carroll: Yes

Commissioner Patel: Yes

Commissioner Morgan: Yes

Commissioner Callis: Absent

There being no further comments, motion passed by 6 votes.

The Executive Director thanked the new Board for executing her a new contract. She further explained the history of the grant policies and procedures and why they were necessary. She encouraged staff and board members to visit the board portal to review information regarding the roles and responsibilities of staff and commissioners.

Finally, she recommended that the board hold a strategic retreat so that issues that have come up can be addressed thoroughly.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.