

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
MAIN OFFICE, 4731 NORTH BOULEVARD
FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AT 12:00 PM**

The Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of East Baton Rouge Parish convened in Regular Session on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 12:00 pm in the Main Office located at 4731 North Boulevard.

Meeting Called to Order **Commissioner Dianna Payton, Chair**

Invocation **Commissioner Al Barron**

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Members Present: **Commissioner Dianna Payton, Chair**
Commissioner Chris Brown
Commissioner Al Barron, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Philip Smith, Jr.
Commissioner LaMiesa Bonton
Commissioner Justin Gaudet

Members Absent: **Commissioner Tyra Banks**

QUORUM PRESENT

Public Comments

Mr. Daniels stated that Mr. Smith had a guest from out-of-town that was not currently there but would be at some point and he requested that this guest be given time to speak when he arrived. Commissioner Payton agreed.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1:
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EAST BATON ROUGE
PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JANUARY 9, 2020.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Barron to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on January 9, 2020 and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No abstentions or oppositions were noted. No further discussion was made.

MOTION PASSED

Mission Statement

To provide and develop quality affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families while promoting self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 2:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – OATH OF OFFICE: MR. JUSTIN GAUDET

Oath of office was performed for Mr. Justin Gaudet and he was officially sworn in as a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. The agenda item was concluded after the oath of office was completed.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3:

**AMENDED LOAN COMMITMENT: CYPRESS AT GARDERE
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-04**

Mr. Daniels presented the agenda item. He stated that the original loan had been approved in April 2017 for \$5.5M. As the development had proceeded, they had been able to reduce the amount to \$2.3 million. Ultimately, action on this agenda item would return the original commitment from 2017 and it also rescinded the commitment to the Ardendale development so that they would not be over committing their resources.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barron approve the amended loan commitment and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No abstentions or oppositions were noted. No further discussion was made.

MOTION PASSED

At this point, Commissioner Smith arrived with his guest, Dr. Johan Uvin, President of the Institute for Educational Leadership. Dr. Uvin was the former, Assistant Secretary of Education under President Obama. He was currently the President for the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. Dr. Uvine addressed the Board sharing their vision for education in the future.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4:

**STATE CIVIL SERVICE EXEMPTION
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-05**

Mr. Daniels stated that the resolution before the Board was in support of the pending legislative action which would be presented in the upcoming legislative session beginning in March. One of their goals was to attract talent to their organization that would help them be successful in their vision. Retaining talented individuals was a challenge because of the limitations with Civil Service which is why they were pushing for the exemption. All HR processes currently governed by Civil Service would then be the responsibility of EBRPHA. There were other housing authorities such as HANO that had already made the transition so they would be able to use them as a guide on future governing practices.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve moving forward with the state civil service exemption and Commissioner Barron seconded the motion. No abstentions or oppositions were noted. No further discussion was made.

MOTION PASSED

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 5:
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Mr. Daniels presented the report. He wanted to recognize their Housing Choice Department because they were awarded “high performer” status, again. He also introduced Mr. David Summers, the new Chief Operating Officer for Partners Southeast.

Otey White and Associates would be presenting the year-end review and future goals for this fiscal year at the next Board meeting.

He informed them that in the coming months they would be bringing an approval for the demolition and disposition strategy related to Turner Plaza and Sharlo Terrace before the board.

Mr. Daniels also reviewed the details for the upcoming fundraiser to purchase beds for children living on their properties. It was discovered and researched by Mr. David Delaune that there were at least 50 known cases where children were having to sleep on the floor or on makeshift beds and as members of the community, he felt that this should be supported. The Board agreed completely and was 100% in support of this endeavor.

This concluded presentation of the Chief Executive Officer’s report.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 7:
DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & REPORTS

Ms. Traci Lang presented the financial report. She stated that all programs were in the black except for AMP 5 which was due to a large turnaround and related construction costs. No other discussion was made regarding the financial report.

B. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

This report was not addressed.

C. PUBLIC HOUSING

This report was not addressed.

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D. CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM

This report was not addressed.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES

This report was not addressed.

Commissioner Payton asked if there were any questions regarding any of the reports. None were voiced.

This concluded the presentation of the departmental reports.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 8:
PARTNERS SOUTHEAST COO REPORT**

This report was not presented.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 9:
NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was addressed.

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 10:
ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Payton asked if there were any other matters that needed to be brought out in the meeting. None were voiced.

MEETING ADJOURNED

APPROVED

Dianna Payton
Chair
East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority

J. Wesley Daniels, Jr.
Secretary/Chief Executive Officer
East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority