

**Monroe-West Monroe  
Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitors Bureau  
Board of Directors Special Called Meeting**

**Minutes  
March 24, 2015**

**Date and Place:** A Special Called Meeting of the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau on March 24, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. The Chairwoman, Sammy Gordy, presided.

**Roll Call:**        **Present**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jerry Edmondson | Omar Elgourani |
| Sammy Gordy     | Lane Howell    |
| Nash Patel      | Sue Nicholson  |
| Don O'Toole     | Ryan Roark     |
| Janet Rutledge  | Norene Smith   |

**Absent**

Gretchen Kovac (excused)

**Staff:**            Alana Cooper, President/CEO  
                  Sylvia Bullard, Office Manager  
                  Elmer Noah, Board Attorney

**Agenda:** It was moved by Don O'Toole and seconded by Sue Nicholson to approve the March 24, 2015 called meeting agenda. Motion carried by a vote of ten (10) affirmatives votes to zero (0) negative votes.

**President/CEO Report:** Alana Cooper reported that this meeting was called to discuss and take action regarding the introduction of a proposed ordinance concerning the hotel/motel occupancy tax and the Southside Economic Development District that will be discussed at the Monroe City Council meeting schedule for March 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

On the City Council Agenda by Councilman Clark is the introduction of an Ordinance to implement the legislation that created the revenue stream for SEDD pursuant to the Act of the Legislature and Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax for SEDD.

Alana Cooper gave out copies of the Legislation LSA.R.S.332740.51 to the board for review. She discussed paragraph (M) 1 and 2 with much focus on new construction of hotels after July 1, 2005. She stated at this time, there hasn't been any new construction within SEDD borders. She also referred to paragraph (M) 2 which states the tax authority being the Convention and Visitors Bureau, must consent to the taxes being levied. She stated that she would like for the board to make a motion against the action that SEDD is taking for the proposed collection of the hotel/motel taxes.

It was moved by Sue Nicholson and seconded by Jerry Edmondson that the Convention and Visitors Bureau does not consent and is opposed to any effort by SEDD to collect a percentage of the four (4%) or add additional percentage to the hotel/motel occupancy tax on the seven existing hotels that sits in their district. The legislation proposed new hotels built after July 1, 2005 with the approval of the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau. So far, there is no construction of new hotels built in the SEDD district after July 1, 2005. The motion was submitted to a roll call vote, and the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit.

Yeas: (9) Jerry Edmondson, Omar Elgourani, Sammy Gordy, Nash Patel, Sue Nicholson, Don O'Toole, Ryan Roark, Janet Rutledge, Norene Smith

Nays: (1) Lane Howell

Absent: (1)

Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to one (1) negative vote and one (1) absent.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, it was moved by Jerry Edmondson and seconded by Nash Patel to adjourn at 2:10 p.m. Motion carried by a vote of ten (10) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative vote.

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Chairwoman, Sammy Gordy

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Secretary/Treasurer, Lane Howell