

LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF INTENTION FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF
THE OPELOUSAS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Opelousas Downtown Development District ("ODDD") was established in 2017 to build leadership and serve as the catalyst for economic growth and development in Downtown Opelousas; to encourage cooperation and collaboration by advancing a positive image of downtown; and to plan and develop the designated commercial district to its potential, through economic development and historic preservation;

WHEREAS, the ODDD established priority actions to improve and enhance pedestrian and bicycle accessibility within and into the downtown area; improve and enhance lighting and security through downtown corridor arteries; improve and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the downtown corridor arteries; identify and advocate for 1-2 anchor building redevelopment projects in the downtown core; spearhead the completion of a long-term downtown strategic growth plan and improve and enhance Broadband infrastructure and capacity;

WHEREAS, the ODDD determined a need for a unified vision and master plan for the District to achieve this mission and priorities;

WHEREAS, the ODDD entered into a Planning Services Agreement with the Center for Planning Excellence in order to perform research, planning, analysis, outreach and engagement, and preparation of a vision, long-term plan and implementation strategy for the District;

WHEREAS, the ODDD conducted extensive outreach and engagement activities throughout the planning process to ensure that Opelousas residents' voices are included in the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Plan sets the vision for the future of downtown Opelousas based on guiding principles that reflect residents' core values, and sets out recommendations that should be implemented across the entire District over the course of as many as 20 years;

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Plan reflect the input of many Opelousas residents and business owners who attended public meetings of the ODDD;

WHEREAS, as implemented, the ODDD advises that the results of these recommendations will create a vibrant downtown;

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2021 the ODDD Board adopted the Opelousas Downtown Master Plan to guide development and investment in the District;

WHEREAS, to further the mission, the ODDD requested that the governing authority of the City of Opelousas express its support for the Plan, and adopt the Plan in its entirety;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was proposed to the governing authority of the City of Opelousas for the purpose of considering public support for the Plan, and adopting the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Ordinance was introduced by councilmember Charles Cummings on the 13th day of July, 2021, at a public meeting of the city council.

A PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021, AT 5:00 O'CLOCK P.M. AT THE REGULAR MEETING PLACE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, CITY HALL MUNICIPAL PLAZA, 105 N. MAIN STREET, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA. DONE AND SIGNED AT OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY 2021.

/s/ Julius Alsandor

MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Leisa S. Anderson

CITY CLERK

Pub. 2T, 07/21/2021, 07/25 /2021