

Baker Main Street Economic Development District Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Baker City Fire Station
3701 Groom Rd.
Baker, LA, 70714

1. Call to Order, Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Name	Role
Cedric Murphy	President
Lisa Bradley Hunt	Vice President
Michelle Woods	Board Member
Kermit Johnson IV	Secretary

Absent

Willie Williams, Treasurer

Guests and Affiliates in Attendance

Name
Dante Bidwell, Consultant
Darnell Waites, Mayor
Myra Victor Harris, Appointee (School Board)

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Michel Woods moved to approve the minutes with any necessary amendments.
- **Second:** President Cedric Murphy
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously.

5. Retail Strategies Presentation

Introduction of Speakers: Dante Bidwell, Lead Consultant

Presentation: Jonathan Ross and Adam Shackleford, Retail Strategies

- Overview of project to attract additional retail to Baker, increasing tax revenue and introducing new jobs into the local economy.
- Q&A session held with Board members and attendees, emphasizing supporting small businesses while recruiting national chains, and Retail Strategies team sharing examples of recent successes in other cities.

6. Discussion of BMSEDD next steps and action items

Presentation: Dante Bidwell

- Discussion regarding revenue generation for BMSEDD, including introducing 2% occupancy tax and/or TIF.
 - Information provided by City-Parish Finance Department how to establish both.
- Additionally, discussed developing strategic plan for how EDD revenue will be used.
 - This step would come before establishing occupancy tax or TIF.

7. Public Comment

No Additional Public at this time

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.