



## **VEDC Update for Port Lavaca – April 2024 MAY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Residential Incentives Draft**

- Pending (still) – presented to Council on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The VEDC is waiting on direction from council.

### **Marketing**

- VEDC is working with a third party to update the VEDC website to include a page/tab for Port Lavaca that will include economic development information specific to Port Lavaca (in progress)
- Website now automatically populates with MLS real estate listings
- VEDC will add a list of other properties for sale/lease
- VEDC staff is creating a one-page marketing sheet for Port Lavaca per request
- VEDC is working with software (Placer.ai) to research shopping patterns to see what businesses would “fit” into the community
- VEDC will propose Port Lavaca consider becoming a certified “Film Friendly City” (more information to come)

### **Business**

- VEDC staff continues to market Port Lavaca.
- Working with retailers to try to fill empty spots.
- Working with Chamber to schedule meetings with business owners/ roundtable discussion

### **Projects**

- WGS is still a very active project and the VEDC will meet with the executive team from the company toward the end of May (previous 2-day site visit held 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> of March). This would be at the ALCOA site and originally would result in 1,500 jobs. The plan has expanded its prospective footprint and would result in more land and more jobs.
- Project Lynas is still active
- 4 other (previously 3) large projects are being worked on in the region which will result in many jobs, if sites are selected. Everyone is still in the planning stages.

### **Other**

- VEDC attended USDA meeting with representatives and community people to understand the process. While USDA is encouraging people to apply, they currently have no funding. (There are applications in the que that have been approved, but not funded, due to lack of funding by the US government).
- VEDC has met with Habitat in other communities and is researching the Calhoun County Habitat, to see how they can help.
- Consider strategic planning meeting