



VEDC Update for Port Lavaca – August 2024 SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING (updated)

Residential Incentives Draft

- Pending (still) – presented to Council on January 29th. The VEDC is waiting on the direction of the City Council.
- Residential Development – VEDC Staff speaking to comptroller’s office to better understand how to present the use of TIRZ and PID for development. Contacted a developer who has a proven track record in smaller communities, utilizing TIRZ and PID, with no direct money out of pocket for the City. VEDC staff will bring more information and set up a meeting with the City Manager, before bringing it to Council.

Marketing

- VEDC is currently updating the update the VEDC website to include a page/tab for Port Lavaca that will include economic development information specific to Port Lavaca (on going)
- VEDC staff spoke to City Manager regarding Port Lavaca becoming a certified “Film Friendly City”. We can present the process to council during a later meeting (if/when preferred).
 - First steps required include:
 - VEDC Staff (the invitation will be extended to Tania French at the chamber, as well) to attend a workshop hosted by the state. THEY ARE WORKING ON SCHEDULING ONE IN THE FALL. The FF staff is supposed to contact VEDC staff to update on a date.
 - Updating forms to be presented and approved by City Council (working on those now)

Business

- VEDC staff presented to City Council on August 12th, updating on all of the ongoing projects, with a focus on Calhoun County.
- Working with a potential shoe retailer (consultant) looking to possibly have a location in Port Lavaca.
- Having met with a consultant on August 23rd, CM and VEDC staff are working on an Economic Impact Analysis as it relates to Safe Harbor Refuge.
- VEDC staff will have a regularly scheduled meeting with CM on a monthly basis.
- VEDC staff will meet with CM marketing plan for vacant buildings/lots and other sites and will target those sites.
- VEDC staff will schedule regular visits to businesses located in Port Lavaca, beginning with those downtown.
- VEDC staff will be attending retail attraction trade shows, effective 4th quarter 2024 (schedule will follow). Discuss what a “wish list” would be for retail (ie. Carwash, shoe store, etc).
- Working with Chamber to schedule meetings with business owners/ roundtable discussion (*hopefully September, definitely in October*).

Projects

- VEDC is working with a new DOW supplier that will have an economic impact, to include some jobs, in the community.



- WGS is still a very active project. This would be at the ALCOA site and originally would result in 1,500 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 held their Quarterly Open Board Meeting on August 28th and Jonas Titas, President, updated on all projects. (Council members should be receiving invitations to these – if not, please let VEDC staff know asap. Mark the calendar for **NOVEMBER 14th** for the next one). The event was well attended, and the food was great!