

ORDINANCE NO. 26-02

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF SOMERSET, KENTUCKY, ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF NEW OAK ROAD IN THE VALLEY OAK COMMERCE CENTER ON THE EAST SIDE OF HIGHWAY 461.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSET, KENTUCKY:

- I. The Street "New Oak Road" of Valley Oak Commerce Center found in the attached Graphic and Described in the letter from SPEDA President Chris Girdler shown in yellow is hereby accepted into the City street system. See Exhibit A.
- II. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage, approval, and publication according to law.

FIRST READING: January 12, 2026

SECOND READING: February 9, 2026

APPROVED:



Mayor, Alan Keck

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Nick Bradley



November 19th, 2025

City of Somerset
Attn: Mayor Alan Keck & Somerset City Council
306 East Mt. Vernon Street
Somerset, KY 42501

RE: Official Request - City of Somerset Accept New Oak Road into City Streets System

Mayor Keck,

On September 5th, 2024, the SPEDA Board of Directors voted unanimously to request the City of Somerset take in New Oak Road located within the Valley Oak Commerce Complex.

The roadway in question is currently owned by SPEDA, however the property surrounding it as well as the newly constructed Valley Oak Apartments and the internal streets are all located within the city limits of Somerset.

Please see the enclosed visual aid we've created to better demonstrate the roadway section **highlighted in yellow** we are requesting to be taken into the city's street system. Also, we have provided our September 2024 Board Meeting minutes.

Valley Oak Commerce Complex is a thriving industrial and commerce park that has grown in its use over the last few years with additional property within and surrounding it being taken into the city limits. We believe New Oak Road will be another great addition to the city's infrastructure system.

Kindest Regards,



Chris Girdler
President & CEO

cc: Council Members: Tom Eastham, Amanda Bullock, David Godsey, Jim Mitchell, John Ricy Minton, Patrick Hunley, Phyllis Lawson, Margaret Dick, Jimmy Eastham, Brannen Wheeldon, Brian Dalton, David Burdine

Somerset Pulaski Economic Development Authority

Board of Directors Meeting
September 5th, 2024
SPEDA Board Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Seth Atwell	Michelle Allen	Brook Ping	Forrest Spillman
Tina Hamm	Mayor Alan Keck		

Board Members Absent:

Steve Merrick	Judge Executive Marshall Todd
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Staff in Attendance:

Chris Girdler	Jessica Carlton	Julie Harris
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Other Guests:

Carla Slavey – Commonwealth Journal
Jeremy Bartley – SPEDA Legal Counsel
Sam Mink – SPEDA Summer Intern
Doug Gooch – AGE Engineering
Shane Weddle – Weddle Enterprises

Call to Order

SPEDA Chairman Seth Atwell called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

➤ Recognize & Welcome Visitors & Guests

Chairman Seth Atwell welcomed guests in attendance.

➤ Minutes

Minutes from August 1st, 2024 were approved as read.

➤ Financial Update

Presented by Forrest Spillman. President Girdler explained to the board that beginning Monday, September 9th, the auditors will be in the office. He reminded the board that we voluntarily have an annual audit conducted and we have always received the highest mark possible.

Financials stand as read.

Old Business

➤ Valley Oak Roadways – Potential Adoption by City/County & Permanent Closure

President Girdler began by showing an aerial photo of the two roads in discussion to the board. He explained that SPEDA is proposing to make an official request for the county to take in the new portion of Pin Oak Drive. The rest of this road is already under the county roadway maintenance. SPEDA would also like to propose making an official request for the city to take New Oak Rd into their roadway maintenance. The new apartment complex that uses this road has already been annexed into the city. He also explained that the end of New Oak Rd that joins Dahl Rd is where we installed concrete and jersey barriers to temporarily close due to the volume of trucks being misrouted due to the Highway 461 road construction. This road is a SPEDA owned road, and the board needs to vote to keep the road closed by tearing up the pavement, adding a cul-de-sac or open it back up to traffic.

Brook Ping made the motion for SPEDA to close the end of New Oak Rd/Dahl entrance by adding a cul-de-sac and for SPEDA to make the official request to the City of Somerset to take New Oak Rd into their roadway maintenance and Pulaski Co Fiscal Court to take the remainder of Pin Oak Rd into their roadway maintenance if they both so choose. Forrest Spillman seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

➤ **VOCCA Information and Upcoming Meeting**

President Girdler started by thanking Judge Todd & Mayor Keck for attending the August 16th, meeting held at TTAI. The meeting went well, and all seemed to be in favor of VOCCA. Our next meeting will be in October and will be held at Bosch Growers facility. We are moving forward to finalize the paperwork needed to establish VOCCA. The VOCCA Board of Directors will oversee the association and SPEDA will be the managing entity to execute the bids, payments and such.

➤ **Misc. (Any Questions, Concerns or Updates by Board Members)**

No further old business to discuss.

New Business

➤ **Recognition and Presentation – Sam Mink – SPEDA Intern**

President Girdler stated that Sam Mink a Senior at PCHS was also chosen to be one of SPEDA's summer interns. Sam was recognized and given a small token of appreciation. Sam's school schedule has allowed him to stay as an intern at SPEDA through the end of the year.

➤ **Annual Retreat Date Set – December 2024**

President Girdler stated that he wanted to go ahead and get our annual board retreat on everyone's calendar. It was agreed to be held on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, and will start at 10am at the SPEDA office. Following the retreat will be the annual meeting then the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting.

➤ **SPEDA Commerce Park Update – Presentation by AGE & Weddle Enterprises**

President Girdler stated that SPEDA has been very aggressive in many ways, and one is the SPEDA Commerce Park. Work was halted due to rain over several months and other out of our control circumstances, but work has since commenced.

AGE & Weddle Enterprises gave a presentation to the board. The board was given a copy of a "Change Order Request" from AGE & Weddle Enterprises. This change order is for the clean-up of a sinkhole where hundreds of tires had been illegally dumped. This was not found during past environmental reports but was found during the land clearing.

Alan Keck made a motion to accept the Change Order Request for the tire clean-up and removal, along with the remediation and repair of wet weather spring area discovered. Michelle Allen seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Shane Weddle with Weddle Enterprises also gave a progress report of the SPEDA Commerce Park development.

➤ Misc. (Any Questions, Concerns or Updates by Board Members)

No further new business to discuss.

➤ **President & CEO Report**

President Chris Girdler gave a brief report consisting of the following:

- He stated how grateful he is to be able to lead SPEDA and shared a quote with the board.
- A drone video was shown of various developments in progress.
- Progress is being made with a partnership with Somerset High School to become the second in the state to have an aviation program.
- Dr. John Pearson spoke at the August Chamber Luncheon. He also taught a short course for local high schoolers at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. The students were hand picked from each high school.
- Intern Focus Group was held on August 12th and was the largest to date with 16 students.
- Industrial Leaders Breakfast was held on August 15th, at Somerset Community College and KCTCS President Dr. Ryan Quarles was the guest speaker. There were 35 in attendance and 14 companies represented.
- Spoke to the Lake Cumberland Tourism board on August 19th.
- Progress on Dream Big Burnside Board was discussed. An RFP went out nationwide. 8 proposals were submitted and narrowed down to 3 and has been awarded to Hundon Partners in Chicago. Vice Chair Allen who is also Vice President for Dream Big Burnside was a big help in reviewing the submissions and choosing a company.

- Was part of a panel discussion for the KY Realtors Association on August 22nd about Economic Development.
- We had 25 make the trip to visit to Life Learning Center on August 27th. Julie is currently working on a video about Life Learning Center.
- Ride the Wave Community Art Project was announced at the September Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. The boats will be unveiled at Foodstock 2025, and a trail will be designed for visitors to see them all. Proceeds from this project will go to benefit the Veterans Park.
- Working on dates that coordinate with Congressman Rogers' schedule for a small ceremony dedicating the tank at the Veterans Park. CCI has been incredibly great to work with and we are very appreciative of all their help with the tank.
- Applauded Judge Todd and Mayor Keck for their State of the City & County address at the September Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. Both spoke of their collaborations, projects and visions for Somerset and Pulaski County.
- Julie Harris has been working with Al Cross to have SPEDA conduct a survey about the Highway 111 project.
- The Air Show will be held on 9/21/24 and we are anticipating a huge crowd. Promotions have started and SPEDA will get VIP tickets.
- Update on the Lake Cumberland Regional Airport loan. SPEDA helped to recruit PHI Medical Air Services and loaned LCRA \$100,000 to renovate a hanger for them. Now we have two companies to serve the area. LCRA has less than two years left to pay and currently has it paid down to \$46,000.
- Will be speaking to another group of tourism directors in Richmond.
- Currently sitting on the KY Chamber Policy and Research Board of Advisors.
- September 24th is the Somerset Community College Hall of Honor dinner. SPEDA has a table of 8 if anyone would like to attend.

➤ **Executive Session – Discussion of Real Estate, Legal & Budgetary Items**

***Pursuant to KRS 61.810 & 61.815**

Chairman Atwell entertained a motion to go into Executive Session. Michelle Allen made the motion and Brook Ping seconded the motion. All voted in favor to enter Executive Session.

Michelle Allen made the motion to exit Executive Session and Brook Ping seconded the motion. All voted in favor to exit Executive Session.

No action was taken.

- **Next Meeting Date** –Next meeting is October 3rd, 2024 – 3:00pm EST – SPEDA Board Room

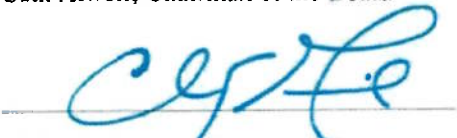
➤ **Adjourn**

Michelle Allen made the motion for adjournment and Brook Ping seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm EST.

Minutes Approved on October 3rd, 2024 by:



Seth Atwell; Chairman of the Board



Chris Girdler; President & CEO



Valley Oak site listed on National Register of Historic Places

somersekyleads.com/pin-oak-site-at-valley-oak-commerce-complex-added-to-national-register-of-historic-places/

March 1, 2024



By SPEDA [History](#), [SPEDA](#) March 1, 2024 3 minute read

2-acre area called Pin Oak appears to have been a small village occupied 1,500 years ago

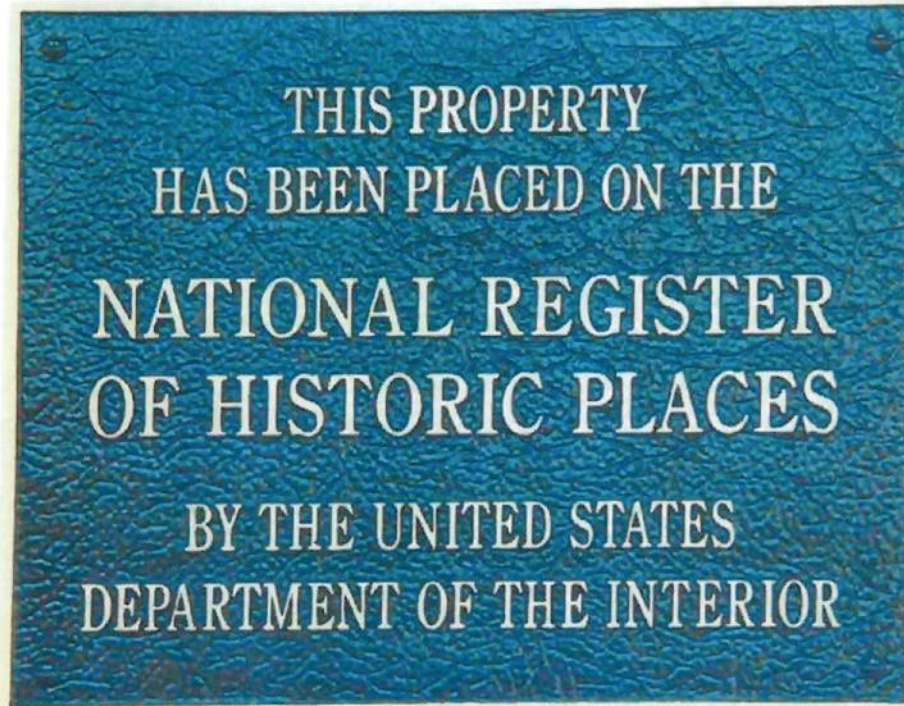
Nearly 30 years after archaeologists first discovered prehistoric artifacts on 35 acres within Valley Oak Commerce Complex in eastern Pulaski County, a smaller section of this site known as Pin Oak has been added to the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

The Somerset-Pulaski Economic Development Authority (SPEDA) nominated the two-acre tract to the National Register in 2022 upon learning of its existence when going through surveys and deed work left behind by SPEDA's predecessor organization, the Somerset-Pulaski County Development Foundation. The site, located on a large area of green space between what is now Hendrickson International and Gatormade Trailers, appears to have been a small Middle Woodland village occupied some 1,500 years ago, one of the few villages of this period to be documented in Pulaski and surrounding counties.

The artifacts, which date back to around 430 A.D., were first uncovered in 1994. Valley Oak Commerce Complex had already been developed and the foundation was planning its first addition to the park when, as is often required in industrial development, foundation officials

requested an archeological survey of the site to ensure it was developable.

Dr. Jack M. Schock of Arrow Enterprises surveyed the property between Oct. 12, 1994, and Jan. 16, 1995, and conducted a second testing phase in December 1996 and January 1997. Schock's work uncovered something significant — a central plaza surrounded by an unknown number of circular houses with overlapping patterns that would suggest the homes were occupied over several years, as well as limestone-tempered ceramics, lithics, animal bone and fire-cracked rock.



SPEDA will place a marker at the Valley Oak site, add a walking trail and fence the area.

While preliminary negotiations between the Kentucky Heritage Council and the development foundation resulted in the foundation agreeing not to develop the site, SPEDA President and CEO Chris Girdler said it was clear upon reviewing existing documents that nothing further had been done to note this property's historical significance. After speaking to the Kentucky Heritage Council, he reached out to Western Kentucky University's Kentucky Archaeological Survey for assistance in nominating this site for the National Register of Historic Places.

"When we realized what we had been sitting on all this time, we knew we had to be proactive and publicly recognize this property's historical significance," Girdler said. "This village existed during a period close to when Jesus walked the Earth, and now this property sits in the middle of a major industrial complex. It's crazy to think about."

But that's exactly what Girdler wants people to do when they travel through this industrial complex — think about it. Soon after SPEDA nominated the property to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Girdler began talking to Somerset Community College (SCC) instructors about providing educational opportunities at the site. He has discussed creating a virtual experience where people can walk back in time to see what this settlement may have looked like 1,500 years ago. And he has engaged SCC's 3D printing department about recreating some of the artifacts Schock discovered during his survey.

SPEDA has immediate plans to fence the site, create a walking trail, and add signage describing what has been discovered at this property, Girdler said.

"I cannot thank the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and Director David Pollack enough for helping us navigate this process," Girdler said. "I think it's a wonderful thing to preserve this land, to protect this green space in the middle of an industrial complex as a symbol of our desire to preserve and honor our history and heritage. SPEDA values Somerset and Pulaski County's past and is working to strengthen the present and build for the future. This is a way in which we honor our past and we are proud to do it."