

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at Noon, First Guaranty Bank**

The meeting was opened, and the following attendance was noted:

Name	Standing for	Present	Absent
Mike Heinen	J.D. Tourist Commission		X
Beau Hearod	Jennings	X	
Tony Hulsey, Vice-Chairman	Jennings	X	
Joel Oustalet	J.D. Tourist Commission	X	
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Jay Theunissen, Secretary/Treasurer	Jennings		X
Marilyn Watkins	J.D. Tourist Commission		X
Rick Arceneaux	Attorney	X	
Greg Marcantel	Interim Director/Accountant	X	
Angel M. Scott	EDC	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings		X
Zach Hager, Guest	One Acadiana		X
Alex Guillory, Guest	Blue Wing Engineering	X	

Call to Order: *Chairman Petree called* the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

Prayer and Pledge: *Joel Oustalet* said the prayer and led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Tony Hulsey, seconded by Beau Hearod, and passed unanimously* to approve *the agenda of April 14, 2021.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Joel Oustalet, and passed unanimously* to approve *the minutes of March 2021.*

Approval of Financials: *A motion was made by Joel Oustalet, seconded by Beau Hearod, and passed unanimously* to approve *the financials ending February 2021.*

Public Comments: N/A

Old Business: Chairman Ronnie Petree the Search Committee Update. Stating that 11 applications were received and reviewed. Expectations are to interview 5 applicants this week with a hope of a final decision by the end of the day on Friday. Two applicants are from JDP and 3 are regional residents. All applicants are qualified and with great skills to offer. Any of these 5 would be great fits for the position. Chairman Petree offered sincere thanks to Interim Director, Greg Marcantel for his guidance and services during this time and his willingness to serve our area. Chairman Petree extended added thanks and acknowledgement to all the staff of the 3 entities for their efforts getting through this time of transition.

Chairman Ronnie Petree updated conversations on name change potential for Flyways and Byways. We are looking into the exact cost of the signs which are created by the DOTD. We ran just shy of presenting this legislation for now, but will continue diligent to see it through for next year.

Chairman Petree gave a reminder to all Board members to complete and file Financial Disclosure Statements and send a copy to the ED Office for record keeping and filing.

New Business: Angel Scott, on behalf of Imperial Calcasieu and their representative, Mayor Henry Guinn presented details of the Grant Opportunity Pilot Program through Imperial Calcasieu and its efforts to bring Lafayette Utility System into the City of Jennings. This grant is target to offer and secure fiber services to our area. The current route for the grant request will head south from I10 down to Hwy 90 and then West to the end of the city limits. It also has a route to move east covering the area of the City of Jennings Administrative Buildings. In this conversation, Interim Director Greg Marcantel mentioned the desire of the JDP Police Jury talks to create a parish website. All conversations led to the support of their efforts and how we may be able to aid. Further discussions will be held on this item. Also discussed was the added grant opportunity for the ETE (Economic Technology Enterprise) Center to be set up in Jennings.

Motion to Adjourn: *A motion was made by Beau Hearod and seconded by Tony Hulsey and passed unanimously* to adjourn.

I, Greg Marcantel, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission held on April 14, 2021.


Greg Marcantel, Interim Director