

**JEFF DAVIS PARISH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
DATE: 12/16/19**

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

Name	Representing	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
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings	X	
Marion Fox	President/CEO	X	
Tracie Fontenot	EDC Office	X	
Charlie Butler	JD Advisory		X
Jimmy Cormier	JD Advisory		X
Tom Couste	JD Advisory		X
Jim Wright	JD Advisory		X
Dr. Shane Fontenot	JD Advisory	X	
Pat Hanley, Jr.	JD Advisory		X
Senator Jerry Theunissen	JD Advisory	X	
Will Guinn	JD Advisory		X

Guest Present: Greg Marcantel with the SpunGold

Call to Order ~ *Chairman Petree called* the meeting to order at 8:03pm.

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Marilyn Watkins, seconded by Tony Hulsey and passed unanimously* to approve the agenda of November 13, 2019.

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

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Joel Oustalet, seconded by Mike Heinen and passed unanimously* to approve *the minutes of October 9, 2019.*

Approval of Financials: *A motion was made by Mike Heinen, seconded by Joel Oustalet and passed unanimously* to approve *the financials ending September 30, 2019.*

Public Comments: Scheduled Thursday, November 14 at the Strand Theater is a film about Discovering Oil in Jennings. The Zigler Museum will host a reception from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. There will be a trolley if you would like to take to the Strand to watch the film.

Mike Heinen thanked Marion for running for State Representative it takes special people that put themselves out there to run and I am thankful for that.

Old Business: Marion spoke about the interview with Phil Boudreaux with KADN, Fox News 15 out of Lafayette. They wanted to know why our unemployment is so low. Toured Lacassine, Rail Logic, to have the

interview. He was impressed with what is happening out on the west end laying rail track every day. Louisiana operating company is waiting for their soil cement to settle and then they will start construction. All the resumes are sent to Marion first and she forwards them on the Mr. Kevin Dodd. I think they are just starting the interview process now. Wages are comparable to Lake Charles to attract employees to work.

Bayou Rum incentives were voted down at the school board meeting. Butch and Ronnie talked about the need to educate the new Police Jury and School Board members to make sure they understand the process. Marion and Ronnie will meet with Michael Cassidy and David Bruchhaus for lunch. Michael is the advisor to the school board. David Bruchhaus, legal council for the Police Jury, is very crucial to understand the situation.

Bayou Rum exemption was approved any way. Zach, the state Commerce and Industry approved the exemption. They had requested an extension and they had a deadline they didn't meet.

The Jeff Davis Economic Board presented a check of \$5,000 to One Acadiana. It's a \$5,000 that we will give for the next 5 years to impact 2020. We appreciate everything One Acadiana does for our parish.

New Business: Washington DC Mardi Gras will be held January 21 – 26.

Henry and Marion are still working with the recycling company and meeting with them on November 19 to look at property. Congressman Higgins was in Jennings visiting a couple of small businesses, Greens, Blackwater Gun and HLE Radio and Mayor Guinn accompanied him.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mike Heinen, seconded by Tony Hulsey and passed unanimously* to adjourn.

I, Marion Fox, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the first meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission held on November 13, 2019.

MARION FOX, PRESIDENT/CEO