

Economic Development Commission (JDPEDC) Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at Noon, First Guaranty Bank

The regular meeting of the Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission was called to order, and the following attendance was noted.

Name	Standing for	Present	Absent
Creed Romano, CEO/President	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Mike Heinen	J.D. Tourist Commission		X
Beau Hearod	Jennings		X
Tony Hulsey, Vice-Chairman	Jennings		X
Judy Petry, Secretary/Treasurer	JD Tourist Commission		X
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Carter Prejean	Jennings	x	
Marilyn Watkins	JD Tourist Commission	X	
Rick Arceneaux	Attorney	X	
Greg Marcantel	CPA		X
Mayor Henry Guinn, Advisory	City of Jennings		X
Charlie Butler	Advisory Board Member		X
Senator Jerry Theunissen	EDC Advisory Board	X	
Shane Fontenot	EDC Advisory Board	X	
Jim Wright	EDC Advisory Board	X	
Alex Guillory, Guest	Blue Wing Engineering		X
Jim Bourgeois, Guest	Entergy	X	
Woody Daigle, Guest	Sen John Kennedy's Office		X
Katelyn Little	City of Jennings	X	
Randy Whetstine, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	

Call to Order: Chairman Ronnie Petree called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge: Marilyn Watkins led the prayer, and Alex Guillory led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Marilyn Watkins, seconded by Tony Hulsey, and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by **Marilyn Watkins**, seconded by **Tony Hulsey**, and **passed unanimously** to approve the **April 12, 2023** minutes as presented.

Approval of Financials: **Linda Leblanc** gave the financial report. A motion was made by **Tony Hulsey** and seconded by **Marilyn Watkins** to approve the financials for March 2023 and **passed unanimously**.

Public Comments: **Ronnie Petree** introduced guests: **Jolie Oustalet**, **Mayor Poncho LeJeune**, and **Sheila Chapman**.

Old Business: **Creed Romano** reported that all due diligence on the Benoit property has been completed and submitted to LED, **Blink EV Charging** sent technicians to the I-10 park to assess for EV charging stations, May 18, the ED office is holding a job fair for **Greenberry** at the Jennings campus of **SOWELA**. He also reminded the Board that Ethics reports are due May 15.

New Business:

Chairman Ronnie Petree requested that the June meeting be held on a different day, TBA.

Creed Romano reported that the Zagis building continues to gain attention, that there is a "verbal contract" on the building, and that the company would bring 60 new jobs to the parish. **Redi Mat** came to the office to discuss the possible relocation of their facility to **Lacassine**, **Bayou Rum** has applied for **ITEP** on their expansion. **Creed** informed the board that **Secretary Pierson** is coming to the ED office on the 17 of May to learn about projects in JDP. He also reports that two solar projects have leases in JDP, **Deco Exchange** is looking to buy property in **Lacassine** for their warehouse.

On 5/11, The City of Jennings will host a groundbreaking for **Sunshine John Deere**.

Creed Romano informed the board that **Kyler Royer** resigned from the office, **Kaylee Bryant** is now the Director of the **Gator Chateau**, **Randy Whetstine** will be handling all other Tourist Commission-related business, and **Linda Leblanc** has been appointed Office Manager.

Creed Romano reported that there is an increase in Aviation Tourism in JDP. Events that will be taking place in the City of Jennings include **Swamp STOHL**, **Husky Shootout**, **Stearman**, and **Cessna Straight Tail**.

Senator Theunissen informed that **Chennault** would have their annual Air Show, with the **Twilight Flight** taking place the Friday night.

Chairman Ronnie Petree discussed the **ITEP** that **Bayou Rum** is applying for and gave a detailed explanation.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by **Tony Hulsey**, seconded by **Marilyn Watkins**, and passed unanimously to adjourn.

I, Creed Romano, certify that the above and the foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission on August 10, 2022.


Creed Romano, CEO/President

Chas. H. Jones