

Economic Development Commission (JDPEDC) Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 12 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 | |
| Dr. Shane Fontenot | Jennings | X | |
| Judy Petry | 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 | |
| Senator Jerry Theunissen | EDC Advisory Board | X | |
| Tony Hulsey | EDC Advisory Board | X | |
| Jim Wright | EDC Advisory Board | | X |
| Alex Guillory, Guest | Blue Wing Engineering | | X |
| Zach Hager, Guest | Entergy | | X |
| Megan Duhon | One Acadiana | X | |
| Randy Whetstine, Facilitator | Jeff Davis Economic Development | X | |
| Linda Leblanc | Jeff Davis Economic Development | X | |
| Macey Guidry | Jeff Davis Economic Development | | X |

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

Prayer and Pledge: *Tony Hulsey* led the prayer, and *Judy Petry* led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: *Dr. Shane Fontenot* made a motion, seconded by *Beau Hearod*, and ***passed unanimously.***

Approval of Minutes: The July 10th, 2024, minutes were presented. *Judy Petry* moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by *Dr. Shane Fontenot*, and ***passed unanimously.***

Approval of Financials: *Linda Leblanc* presented the financials. *Judy Petry* moved to accept the budget as presented, seconded by *Beau Hearod*, and ***passed unanimously.***

Public Comments: *None*

Old Business:

Creed Romano gave an update on ICE Industries and AYPAs.

A discussion was held on educating businesses on ITEP.

New Business:

Chairman Report:

Chairman Ronnie Petree discussed victories within the parish: Thornwell Water District will install a new water plant in Lacassine, and new businesses are relocating there.

CEO REPORT:

Mayor Henry Guinn gave an update on the Shoney's property.

Creed Romano discussed a retreat between the EDC/TC/Chamber Boards and ITEP training. He also discussed project Evergreen, and Legislator.

Beau Hearod gave an update on the state of insurance in Louisiana.

Ronnie Petree discussed developing a "scorecard" for businesses to show growth in the parish.

A discussion was held about which social media platform was best for economic development. It was decided to use LinkedIn and Facebook.

Chairman Ronnie Petree and **Judy Petry** discussed the evaluation committee.

Chairman Petree discussed a tour of Lacassine Park with the School Board and Police Jury. He also discussed coming together with certain groups and discussing how to come together for the betterment of the parish.

Motion to Adjourn: **Beau Hearod** made a motion, seconded by **Judy Petry**, which was unanimously passed to adjourn.

I, **Creed Romano**, certify that the above and the foregoing constitute the minutes of the commissioners' meeting of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission on August 14, 2024.



Creed Romano, CEO/President