

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 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	JD Tourist Commission	X	
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Jay Theunissen, Secretary/Treasurer	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
Zach Hager, Guest	One Acadiana	X	
Alex Guillory, Guest	Blue Wing Engineering	X	
Jim Bourgeois, Guest	Entergy	X	
Woody Daigle, Guest	Sen John Kennedy's Office		X
Randy Whetstine, Facilitator	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 Alex Guillory led the pledge of allegiance.

Jim Bourgeois introduced Perry Pertuit.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by **Tony Hulsey**, seconded by **Beau Hearod**, and **passed unanimously**.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by **Marilyn Watkins**, seconded by **Judy Petry**, and **passed unanimously** to approve the May, June, and July 2022 minutes as presented.

**Approval of Financials:** *No financials available.*

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business:** Creed Romano reported on the progress with the LA 26-Benoit Property, waiting on the "Notice to Proceed" to be returned by heirs.

**New Business:** Creed Romano spoke with Mark Pousson and Kyle Todd about progress at the South Louisiana Rail Facility. They said that all operations should be online by January 2023. They also reported plans to put in rice storage bins. Thanks to Jim Bourgeois and Entergy for quickly installing the pad mount transformer.

Mark Pousson has asked the EDC Board to co-host the 2022 Police Jury Association of Louisiana Region VII Meeting by contributing \$1200. **A motion was made by Marilyn Watkins in favor of donating (contingent upon approval of funds By Greg Marcantel), seconded by Tony Hulsey, and passed unanimously.**

Creed Romano reported at the planned Police Jury meeting that LUS Fiber would be in attendance. A discussion will be held on bringing fiber optic internet to Jennings and extending it from Jennings to Calcasieu Parish; the Economic Development Administration and IMCAL will fund this. At the previous Police Jury meeting, a discussion was held on the Capital Outlay Projects priorities: 1. Water to Lacassine, 2. Sewer to Lacassine, 3. Widening Hwy 90, near T.O. Allen, in Lacassine, 4. Widening LA101, creating a turn lane, 5. Installing a freshwater canal or pipeline for process water to Industrial Park.

Alex Guillory discussed potential sewage options for Lacassine and said the Water Sector Grant would cover the cost of a production facility in Lacassine. The Thornwell Water District has applied for the Water Sector Grant. Grant recipients should be announced in a few weeks. Also, he discussed the need for water and sewage in Roanoke. He also reported that Jeff Davis Central Waterworks is working on a new system.

Senator Theunissen discussed the importance of prioritizing projects. He also suggested a meeting with Economic Development, Jay Dardenne, Governor Edwards, and the water districts to discuss funding water to Lacassine.

There was further discussion on the needs, outside of the water production facility, in Lacassine and the potential for jobs it would create.

Creed Romano informed the board that the Ardoin Property is now an LLC and is interested in a dialogue with Economic Development due to its proximity to T.O. Allen. He also gave an update on the park renovations and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that has been installed. A dedication will be held on November 18, 2022, at ten in the morning. Creed stated that it is time to renew the IEDC membership; no vote is required due to it being allocated in the budget. Discussed LIDEA membership; Zach Hager spoke on the benefits of membership. Jim Bourgeois offered to sponsor Randy Whetstine for LIDEA's Basic Economic Development Course. **A motion was made by Judy Petry in favor of joining LIDEA, seconded by Tony Hulsey, and passed unanimously.**

Senator Theunissen updated the board on Chennault and their involvement with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



**Motion to Adjourn:** *A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Tony Hulsey, 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