

## Economic Development Commission (JDPEDC) Minutes of Meeting

**Tuesday, March 7, 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:** **Ronnie Petree** led the prayer, and **Carter Prejean** led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by **Beau Hearod**, seconded by **Judy Petry**, and **passed unanimously** to approve the **January 11, 2023**, minutes as presented.

**Approval of Financials:** A motion was made by **Beau Hearod** and seconded by **Judy Petry** to approve the financials for November 2022, December 2022, and January 2023 and **passed unanimously**.

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business:** **Creed Romano** reported that the Wetlands study had been completed, and the Geo Tech study is underway for the LA-26 Benoit property certification.

**New Business:** **Creed Romano and Mayor Guinn** reported on DC Mardi Gras. Mayor Guinn discussed the possibility of ED and the City of Jennings co-sponsoring a table at the ED Luncheon held on Friday. Creed Romano reported that those who attended from JDP had a private dinner with Senator Cassidy on Tuesday; on Wednesday, they met with our delegation of the Senate and House of Representatives, and on Friday attended an intimate breakfast with Senator Cassidy. The need for water and sewer in Lacassine was discussed at the meetings. Upon return to JDP, Senator Cassidy's Chief of Staff contacted the ED office to request the information needed for Senator Cassidy to obtain appropriations to fund funds for water and Sewage in Lacassine.

**Chairman Ronnie Petree** stated that the LAFA meeting was a success. Creed Romano said the event was great, allowing us to showcase Bayou Rum, the Parish, and our vision for Lacassine Park.

**Creed Romano** spoke of the importance of the Jeff Davis Parish Industrial Board being active with the Louisiana Secretary of State. He also reported that Greenberry Industrial had contacted the ED office to request assistance in holding a job fair due to their growth/need. He also said that BNSF delegates visited the Lacassine area for a familiarization tour. Representatives from JDP also attended the LA Board of Commerce and Industry hearing on Bayou Rum ITEP, and the board voted to "take no action." While there, **Creed** visited with representatives of Metalplate, who reported an expansion that would bring their total job number to 164.

A vote to approve the engagement agreement with Langley Williams for audit services was brought to a vote pending discussion with Greg Marcantel. A motion was made by **Beau Hearod**, seconded by **Marilyn Watkins**, and **passed unanimously**.

**Randy Whetstine** discussed the information requested by First Guaranty Bank before a credit card could be issued in her name under Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development. After discussion, the overall limit for the two Economic Development cards was \$25,000. **Creed Romano's** limit is \$15,000, and **Randy Whetstine's** is \$10,000. A motion was made by **Marilyn Watkins**, seconded by **Beau Hearod**, and **passed unanimously**.

**Senator Theunissen** gave an update on Chennault: The National Guard is building a Readiness Center, Chennault will have an Air Show featuring The Airforce Thunderbirds, May 19-21, and Chennault is partnering with Landlock to build another hanger.



**Mayor Guinn** gave an update on the City of Jennings: expansion of Zigler Dr. across Hwy 26 and ending at Airport Rd., the consideration of turning lanes/boulevard north of I-10, working with DOTD to resolve narrow lane issue on Hwy 26, water plant expansion, sewer lift station North of I-10, and many more infrastructure improvements.

**Jim Bourgeois** reported that Entergy is working closely with Greenberry Industrial and Chennault. JDP is keeping him busy.

**Beau Hearod** reported that the State Legislator is pushing the fortification of roofs by offering incentives.

**Katelyn Little** reported that the City of Jennings would host Touch a Truck on March 11, 9 am-12 pm, at the I-10 Oil and Gas Park.

Mayor Guinn reported that Swamp STOL would occur March 17-18 at The Jennings Airport.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion was made by Judy Petry, 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

General Jones