

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, April 12, 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	Jennings		X
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Carter Ledbetter	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
Randy Whetstine, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Katelyn Little	City of Jennings		

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

**Prayer and Pledge:** Tony Hulsey led the prayer, and Mayor Henry Guinn led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Marilyn Watkins, and passed unanimously* to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes as presented.

**Approval of Financials:** *A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Tony Hulsey, and passed unanimously* to approve the February 2023 financial reports.

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business:** Creed Romano gave an update on the Certification of the LA-Benoit property.

**New Business:** Creed Romano reported that Greenberry Industrial contacted the ED office to hold a job fair on their behalf. It will occur on May 18, at the SOWELA Jennings campus, from 9 am to 4 pm. He also reports that he has received multiple calls regarding the Zagis building. He will also meet with the owner of Redi Mat to discuss their possible relocation to Lacassine. Mr. Romano also reported that the ED office, Alex Guillory and IMCAL have been working on the Water Sector Grant. The Water Sector Grant information was also submitted to Senator Cassidy's office for federal funding to assist with water at TO Allen.

Ronnie Petry reported that the 135 acres needed to square off the LAFA Industrial Park had been put into the budget for this session.

Creed Romano discussed the desire to inspire kids in high school by working with JDPSB and SOWELA to foster an entrepreneurial program to teach business planning, financing, and educating on resources available to a budding entrepreneur.

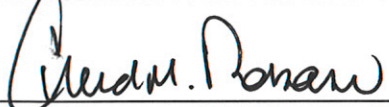
Mayor Henry Guinn reported that he, Alex Guillory, and a delegation from JDP met with Monique Boulet to discuss legislation to create Acadiana Watershed District (Mermentau). Hebert's has broken ground; Sunshine has begun dirt work on their property. He also reported that the 17-acre annexation had been brought before the Police Jury. Mayor Guinn also discussed the many improvements the City of Jennings is working on.

Linda Leblanc reported that the JDP Chamber of Commerce would host a Google workshop in partnership with McNeese Small Business on April 26.

Katelynn Little discussed the upcoming events in Jennings: Turn it Up Tuesday, Market on Main, National Vintage and Antique Car Show, Stars and Stripes, and the proposed Taste of Jennings that will highlight restaurants and caterers in Jennings.

**Motion to Adjourn:** *A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Marilyn Watkins* to adjourn.

I, Creed Romano, certify that the above and 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