

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at Noon, First Guaranty Bank

The meeting was opened and the following attendance was noted:

Name	Standing for	Present	Absent
Creed Romano, CEO/President	Jeff Davis Parish	X	
Mike Heinen	J.D. Tourist Commission		X
Beau Hearod	Jennings	X	
Tony Hulsey, Vice-Chairman	Jennings	X	
Joel Oustalet	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
Dione Sabelhaus	JD Tourist Commission	X	
Jamie Lee	JD Tourist Commission		X
Linda LeBlanc	JD Chamber of Commerce		X
Mayor Henry Guinn, Advisory	City of Jennings	X	
Charlie Butler	Advisory Board Member	X	
Zach Hager, Guest	One Acadiana	X	
Alex Guillory, Guest	Blue Wing Engineering		X
Jim Bourgeois, Guest	Entergy	X	
Senator Jerry Theunissen, Guest	Advisory Board Member	X	
Leah Harford, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Parish	X	

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

Prayer and Pledge: *Joel Oustalet* said the prayer and *Rick Arceneaux* led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Tony Hulsey, seconded by Joel Oustalet, and passed unanimously* to approve *the agenda of July 14, 2021.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Joel Oustalet, seconded by Marilyn Watkins, and passed unanimously* to approve *the minutes of June 2021.*

Approval of Financials: (May 2021 financials were not received prior to meeting.) *Ronnie Petree* entertained a motion to table approval of May 2021 financials until the next meeting. *A motion was made by Marilyn Watkins, seconded by Tony Hulsey, and passed unanimously* to table approval of *the financials ending May 2021.*

Public Comments: N/A

Old Business: Ronnie Petree updated the Board on the South Louisiana Rail Facility. Bids are going to be accepted July 14, 2021 through August 10, 2021.

New Business:

Judy Petry was introduced as the President and General Manager of Farmrail.

Creed Romano reported that his team is still working closely with the Police Jury and local officials in getting sewer and water service to the Lacassine Industrial Site. He, Zach Hager, and Jim Bourgeois discussed the requests they receive requiring water/sewer. Ronnie Petree led the board in a discussion regarding enhancing the existing system versus creating another water district.

Creed Romano reported that we are still working with the Police Jury so that we can participate in LED's Certified Development Readiness Communities Program. Creed said Steve Eastman will put him (Creed) on a future agenda to explain everything. Creed will advise when he is put on the agenda.

General discussion was held regarding the current lack of housing available in the parish, the influx of people from the Lake Charles/Sulphur area, and the recovery efforts since Hurricanes Laura and Delta in that area.

Creed Romano discussed that he had been approached by a company out of Birmingham called Retail Solutions. Mayor Guinn affirmed that he has met with them before. Retail Solutions would like to meet with the Mayor as well as any other interested parties about their services. Mayor Guinn offered to reach out to the mayor of Zachary and see what if any production if being made by Retail Solutions.

Senator Jerry Theunissen reported that Chenault has purchased Mallard Cove golf course with the intent of turning it into an industrial park. They have had quite a few entities approach them about being there.

Ronnie Petree discussed that the GIS website should be moving forward and that future discussions with Donald Kratzer, tax assessor, would be had regarding this. Creed reported that he would be having an online meeting with Kathryn Fenstamaker, Alex Guillory, and ESRI regarding GIS.

General discussion was held regarding the amount of time inmates are being held/let out of the parish jail.

Mayor Guinn reported on things his team is working on and that his main priority right now is hurricane recovery.

Jeff Davis Tourist Commission Marketing Director Dione Sabelhaus reported that there is a Stearman Fly-in event scheduled for early October at the Jennings Airport.

Motion to Adjourn: *A motion was made by Rick Arceneaux and seconded by Marilyn Watkins and passed unanimously* 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 held on July 14, 2021.

Creed Romano, CEO/President