

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, September 14, 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: Chairman Ronnie Petree led the prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: September agenda was approved with a motion from **Judy Petry**, seconded by **Marilyn Watkins**.

Approval of Minutes: August 2022 minutes were approved with a motion from **Beau Hearod**, seconded by **Tony Hulsey**.

Approval of Financials: In July 2022, financials were approved with a motion from **Tony Hulsey**, seconded by **Jay Theunissen**.

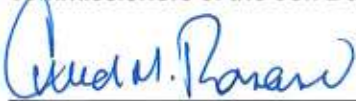
Public Comments: Creed Romano introduced George Swift, CEO of SWLA Alliance, Johnathan Dean, VP of Economic Development of SWLA Alliance, and Randy Whetstine, Executive Assistant Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development.

Old Business: Creed Romano reports that Entergy will pay their portion to certify Lake Arthur's LA 27 Benoit Property. The LED Rural Roadshow was held on 8/31/2022; it was the most well attended in its history. At the Roadshow, the increased attention rural areas receive for expansion was noted.

New Business: Creed Romano gave an update on park renovations, including office and oil derrick repairs, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and electric vehicle charging stations. Water issues at T.O. Allen were discussed. Creed Romano stated that the water sector application has been submitted and that the Jeff Davis Parish Police Jury has committed to \$2 million in funding for water At T.O. Allen, and Mike Hollier with the SW Regional Planning is working on sewage plans for the property. Mayor Guinn discussed a five-parish asphalt plan to reduce the price of repaving roads in the parish. SW Regional Planning will host the data for Jennings GIS to ensure the most up-to-date and accurate information. Mayor Guinn also informed that Jeff Davis Parish received a \$300 million grant for high-speed fiber optic internet. Senator Theunissen gave an update on Chennault. The planned expansion of Bayou Rum was discussed. The Zagis building is getting many inquiries, but the ceiling height impedes potential sales.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by **Tony Hulsey**, seconded by **Beau Hearod**, passing 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, canceled on March 9, 2022.



Creed Romano, CEO/President