

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at Noon, First Guaranty Bank**

The meeting was opened at 12:07 p.m., 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 Hulse, Vice-Chairman	Jennings		X
Linda LeBlanc, Guest	JDP Chamber of Commerce	X	
Jamie Lee, Guest	JDP Tourism	X	
Dione Sabelhaus, Guest	JDP Tourism	X	
Joel Oustalet	J.D. Tourist Commission	X	
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Jay Theunissen, Secretary/Treasurer	Jennings		X
Marilyn Watkins	J.D. Tourist Commission	X	
Rick Arceneaux	Attorney	X	
Greg Marcantel, Advisory	Interim Director/Accountant	X	
Angel M. Scott, Host	EDC	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn, Advisory	City of Jennings	X	
Zach Hager, Guest	One Acadiana		X
Charlie Butler, Advisory	Advisory Board Member	X	
Alex Guillory, Guest	Blue Wing Engineering	X	

Call to Order: *Chairman Petree called* the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

Prayer and Pledge: *Mike Heinen* said the prayer and led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Joel Oustalet, seconded by Marilyn Watkins, and passed unanimously* to approve *the agenda of May 12, 2021.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Joel Oustalet, and passed unanimously* to approve *the minutes of April 2021.*

Approval of Financials: *Greg Marcantel* presented the March, 2021 financial report stating all is as expected and with no out of the ordinary transactions. *A motion was made by Mike Heinen, seconded by Beau Hearod, and passed unanimously* to approve *the financials ending March, 2021.*

Public Comments: N/A

Old Business: **Ronnie Petree** thanked the staff of Jeff Davis Parish Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and Travel and Tourism for their continued work throughout the last several months during this transitional time. He also gave thanks to Interim Director, Greg Marcantel for his service and guidance during the absence of a director. Ronnie Petree welcomes and thanks guest, Charlie Butler to the meeting and encourages him to stay active in his participation. **Ronnie Petree** reminds all Board members that all Personal Financial Disclosure Statements are due to be filed with confirmation of filing by May 15, 2021.

New Business: *A motion was made by Beau Hearod and seconded by Marilyn Watkins* to ratify the action to hire Creed Romano as CEO/President of Jefferson Davis Parish Travel and Tourism, Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce. *The motion passed unanimously.* **Creed Romano** stated that is an honor to serve Jeff Davis Parish and such a great group. He stated that it is humbling and he is honored to serve. **Creed Romano** announced that Entergy has awarded a grant for an EV Charging Station Grant that Marion Fox had originally applied for in the previous year. **Creed Romano** introduced the LED Community Ready Certification Program and the efforts to initiate this program for our Parish. The process includes community active participation of goal setting and accomplishments with a reception upon certification. Mike Heinen of Jeff Davis Electric Co Op and Joel Oustalet of Bubba Oustalet Ford, Chevrolet, Cadillac and Toyota will sponsor the reception. *A motion was made by Beau Hearod and seconded by Marilyn Watkins* and passed unanimously to add **Creed Romano, newly appointed CEO/President** to the Economic Development Bank Account and also approved Creed with any/all decisions to issue new credit cards as needed for department to accommodate the financial needs of the organization. **Angel Scott**, on behalf of Imperial Calcasieu and their representative, **Mayor Henry Guinn** presented new details of the Grant Opportunity Pilot Program through Imperial Calcasieu and its efforts to bring Lafayette Utility System into the City of Jennings. This grant coverage for fiber has been extended and almost doubled in capacity to areas that it will serve. The coverage of the fiber will include the new Educational Training Technology Center to be located downtown. **Greg Marcantel updated** talks for the JDP Police Jury's desire for a website. They have proposals based on their needs and wants and Greg Marcantel will follow up with John Marceaux, Treasure JDP Police Jury and the tie ins to the website. **Ronnie Petree** addressed the want of Rail Logix to hold an onsite event highlighting their services. It is agreed with everyone that we will assist them in all efforts to attract business and support this event through networking invites and attendance.

Motion to Adjourn: *A motion was made by Joel Oustalet and seconded by Beau Hearod 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 May 12, 2021.



Creed Romano, CEO/President