

**St. John the Baptist Parish  
Economic Development Committee**

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, January 9, 2017

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:**

Peggy Joseph  
Tomy Acosta  
Michelle Jenkins  
Leroy Mitchell  
Robert Taylor  
James Oubre, Jr.  
Evin Stein  
Elizabeth Joseph

**Absent:**

**Staff:**

Laverne Toombs  
Rose Gonzales  
Jerry Jones  
Denise Burrell  
Alexandra Carter  
Rene' Pastorek  
Myra Valentine

**Guest:**

Chassity McComack  
Steven Fraker  
Linda Prudhomme  
Kimmie Carlos  
Jo Banner  
Wayne Vicknair  
Wayne Aucoin  
Keith A. Jackson  
Terry McKnight  
Mrs. Taylor  
Lois Frank  
Pamela B. Allen  
Angela Walker

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Chairwoman Peggy Joseph.

**II. Roll Call**

Eight (8) Committee members were present. Quorum was met.

**III. Prayer and Pledge**

Prayer was led by Leroy Mitchell. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Taylor.

**IV. Adoption of Minutes from December 12, 2016 Meeting**

Motion from Tomy Acosta and seconded by James Oubre to adopt the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting with no changes or corrections.

**V. Public Comment (s)**

Keith A. Jackson-Janitorial Company would like to get back involved with a fresh start, a brand new name for his business and learn more about the community. Requested to meet with Jerry Jones in regards to small business investment. Mr. Jackson also would like to invest in homes that people can afford. Chairwoman Peggy Joseph advised him to meet with Chasity McComack and Steven Fraker.

**VI. Director's Report**

Jerry Jones will be bringing newsletter back. He will submit newsletter by the beginning of next week. Ochsner Health System coming to St. John Parish (SJP), over 150 jobs with 90 jobs retained. Also, working on more programs. Comment from Leroy Mitchell in regards to training for jobs in the parish. Mr. Mitchell would like to look at getting local people ready for jobs. Mr. Robert Taylor-concerned if high school students aware of jobs at power plants. Laverne Toombs informed board and guest she and Jerry Jones will be meeting with the Urban League of Louisiana President to see how they can assist with this and see if SJP can implement same program.

**VII. Old Business**

**TIF District Recap  
Buxton Recap**

## VIII. New Business

- Director of Planning and Zoning-Alexander Carter gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on recent and upcoming studies, nonconforming uses and structures, goals, issues, outcomes, additional outcomes, signs, and proposals. Resolution was moved in regards to signage. Motion by Leroy Mitchell and second by Elizabeth “Betty” Joseph.
- Rene Pastorek-Planning and Zoning Manager gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on what to expect in 2017, Historic Preservation Study Committee, and what happened so far.
- Laverne Toombs recommended the EDC Committee take a field trip on Main Street in LaPlace to become familiar with the information.

## IX. Community Partners Update

- Entergy Louisiana – Absent
- Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) – Wayne Aucoin
  - New FastTrac start date-March 9, 2017.
  - Certification for FastTrac Program – January 26, 2017.
  - Small Business Emerging February 9, 2017.
- River Parishes Tourist Commission – Jo Banner
  - Update on Tourism - bonfires was very successful this year.
  - Sending out Mardi Gras emails with parades in the area.
  - Press Trips-Contacted by London Rep. wanting to do a story in NOLA.
  - Cajun Pride Swamp Tours-hoping to see an article in another month.
  - Japanese Television Show-Comes out this month. Was filmed at Evergreen Plantation.
- South Central Louisiana Technical College (SCL) – Absent
- River Region Chamber of Commerce (RRCC) - Chassity McComack
  - Chamber Directory and Commutation Profile
  - Annual Banquet in Ormond Plantation - January 19, 2017
  - Regroup meeting scheduled for January 24, 2017 at the Chamber Office.
- St. John Business Association-Sтивен Fraker
  - Meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at Petra Restaurant – LaPlace at 6:00 p.m.
- Port of South Louisiana-Linda Prudhomme
  - Increase over 2015 – products coming into the facility.
  - Vessels and barges increased accordingly to data
  - Added 2 new commissioners (Judy Songy & Pat Sellers)
- South Central Planning and Development Commission – Absent
- St. John the Baptist Parish School Board – Absent
- Workforce Development Board – Absent
- St. John Community Center - Jo Banner
  - Five (5) productions reached out (Three (3) of the productions are television shows)
  - Booking will begin after Mardi Gras
  - Soundstage for events growing
- Laverne Toombs-Grant Loan lunch sometime in February 2017. 20% grant and 80% loan. Small Business Loan Program being reintroduced for existing businesses that were impacted during Hurricane Isaac.

## X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Tomy Acosta and seconded by Michelle Jenkins. Meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.