

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 6, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Peggy Joseph
Michelle Jenkins
James Oubre, Jr.
Elizabeth Betty Joseph
Robert Taylor

Absent:

Tomy Acosta
Leroy Mitchell
Evin Stein

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Denise Burrell
Terri Abadie
Rene' Pastorek

Guest:

Jo Banner
Angela Walker
Mala Taylor
Sylvia Taylor
Wayne Aucoin
Cullen Curole
Pamela B. Allen
Penelope Freeman
Kerry Jones
Ana Gale-Orellana
Linda Prudhomme

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Five (5) Committee members were present. Three (3) Absent. Quorum was met.

III. Prayer and Pledge

Peggy Joseph led prayer. James Oubre Jr. led pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Adoption of Minutes from January 9, 2017 Meeting

Motion from Robert Taylor and seconded by Michelle Jenkins to adopt the minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting with no changes or corrections.

V. Monthly EDC Update-Director Report

EDC Director, Jerry Jones shared monthly economic development updates. Over the past month, Mr. Jones met, hosted, and/or participated in the following:

- Discussion and preparation of Round 2 for Hurricane Isaac CDBG Grant & Loan funds.
 - Town Hall (East Bank) scheduled for February 15, 2017 at St. John Community Center 6p.m.
 - Town Hall (West Bank) scheduled for February 16, 2017 at Council on Aging Senior Center 6p.m. RSVP by 2/10/17.
- Attending Washington DC Mardi Gras to market and sell parish on what's taken place/make network connections.
 - Opportunity to market the tri-parish.
 - The office will be closed 2/8/17 to 2/10/17
- Goodwill will return to the parish. (Belle Terre location)
- Newsletter will be published at the close of February.
 - Distribution
 - Parish Mail-outs to include churches
- Currently working on website.
- Currently working on updating business data in blackboard to reach out to the owners via phone or text.
- Met with the Andouille Festival Committee concerning planning on what needs to be done this year to make it better.
- Clean Sweep scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017

- Louisiana Association of Fairs & Festivals Convention - Taste of Louisiana Night was successful. Placed 2nd for dessert. 3rd place Andouille & Seafood Stuff Peppers.
- Easter in the Parks scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017 (Eastbank & Westbank)
- Workshop/Certification scheduled for February 9, 2017 - 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m. at South Central Louisiana Technical College - Reserve Campus.
- Presentation
 - 2413 Active Businesses in SJP
 - 12 New Occupational Licenses (January 2017-February 2017)
 - Unemployment Rate

VI. Old Business

- Historic Districts-Motion to support and establish Historic Districts for Garyville, Reserve, LaPlace, and River Road on the Westbank line area motion by Elizabeth Betty Joseph, seconded by James Oubre Jr.

VII. New Business

- Enterprise Zone – criteria for businesses

VIII. Public Comment(s)

- Pamela Allen, Executive Manager of Elite Affairs Event Rentals introduced her business' new location at 1116 W. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068
- Sylvia Taylor, Attorney, interested in local jobs to local residents.

IX. Community Partners Update

- Entergy Louisiana – Kerry Jones
 - Introduced Ana Gale-Orellana, Entergy Project Manager. Ms. Orellana EDC point of contact with Entergy for economic development opportunities.
- Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) – Wayne Aucoin
 - Cost for FastTrac class is \$1125
 - Certification / Workshop - 02/16/17
 - Upcoming classes: QuickBooks, social media, and workforce on hiring/firing employees (TBA)
- Port of South Louisiana (PSL) – Linda Prudhomme
 - Attending Washington Mardi Gras in D.C.
 - Main objective is getting funds through the capital outlay
 - Attending Louisiana Alive
- River Region Chamber of Commerce (RRCC) – Absent
- River Parishes Tourist Commission (RPTC) – Jo Banner
 - Megan Ryburn attended trip to Paris with Lt. Governor Nungesser
 - Official Opening – Historic Riverlands (Former Our Lady of Grace Church – Historic African American Church), March 11th from 4pm – 6pm.
 - Attending Washington Mardi Gras in D.C.
 - Tourist Commission Meeting scheduled for 02/14/17 at 10:30a.m. Location: San Francisco Plantation, Garyville.
- South Central Louisiana Technical College (SCL) – Penny Freeman
 - Moved in new building two weeks ago
 - Welding Building scheduled to break ground in April
 - 40 welding booths
 - MOU to work with Delgado on an Industrial Maintenance Training
 - Classes designed for the underemployed

- Begin in March thru June (2 Sessions)
 - Three days a week (T, W, Thurs.)
 - 5:00p-8:30p
 - Free of Charge
 - James Oubre, Instructor
 - National Apprenticeship Program - Grant will pay tuition for companies who are willing to apprenticeship instead of internships (any program)
 - CDL Class (6 weeks)-need to secure parking for 18-wheeler for 2 weeks.
 - Offering noncredit classes this summer (Word, Excel, Accounting, A/C) More information to come.
 - Fall student enrollment goal-1300 students
 - Now offering 2nd chance program (allowing 30 students to get into school)
 - Current Spring enrollment- 742
- South Central Planning and Development Commission-Cullen Curole
 - Hurricane Isaac Recovery – Hurricane Isaac CDBG Grant & Loan Program
 - St. John Business Association – Absent
 - St. John Community Center - Jo Banner
 - Inquires of events for 2018
 - Meeting with SJC committee (ways to increase use of center)
 - St. John the Baptist Parish School Board – Absent
 - Workforce Development Board – Absent

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Jenkins and seconded by Elizabeth Betty Joseph. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30p.m.