

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 6, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

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

Absent:

Nora Pierre

Staff:

Jerry W. Jones Jr.
LaVerne Saulny
Terri Abadie
Denise Burrell

Guest:

Wayne Aucoin
Jo Banner
Lois Frank
Penny Freeman
Sheryl Gaines
Lucien Gauff
Elizabeth Joseph
Andrea Lowe
Phyllis Madere
Larry Surapuru
Mrs. Taylor

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman Peggy Joseph.

II. Roll Call

Seven (7) Committee members were present and (1) absent. Quorum was met.

III. Prayer and Pledge

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

IV. Adoption of Minutes from May 2, 2016 Meeting

Motion from Robert Taylor and seconded by Evin Stein to adopt the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting with no changes or corrections.

V. Monthly EDC Update

Monthly economic update was reviewed by LaVerne Saulny. CAO highly recommended reading minutes because it is public record. CAO introduced and welcomed new staff members to EDC members: Jerry W. Jones Jr., Director of Economic Development, and former Councilman for the City of Alexandria-District 3; Denise Burrell, Executive Secretary of Economic Development; Terry Abadie- Economic Development Coordinator. Stepping in for Mrs. Nora Pierre - Elizabeth "Betty" Joseph - work for NASA in Gentility

Director Report-will be presenting new ideas to St. John Parish.

Question from Mr. Leroy Mitchell- Concern about businesses that do not remain in SJP for business & what makes the businesses leave.

Lucien Gauff-Residents are moving out the parish because of the school system. Until we remove stigma that our school system failing, residents will not remain in SJP.

Mr. James Oubre.Jr., -comment-he is an instructor and recruit students to attend LA Technical college. However, he's unsuccessful with recruitment in St. John Parish.

Old Business

EDC By-laws

- The EDC By-laws tabled for 10-minute Executive Session following meeting.

VI. New Business

- Ethics Training review with committee members

Introduction of Board Members

VII. Community Partners Update

- RRCC-Chassity McComack
 - Concerns of flood protection
 - Working with Golden Sacks to host a lunch & learn
 - Hosting a “New Teacher” welcome bag event
 - Will continue to monitor the legislature session
 - Steve Waguespack event rescheduled to June 29, 2016
- South Central LA Tech-Penny Freeman
 - Summer classes started
 - Apprenticeship program (5 students chosen)
 - New Building update-move in mid-December
 - Student enrollment for fall-1000 students
 - New electrician program in the fall
- LSBDC – Wayne Aucoin
 - FastTrac graduation 80 people in attendance
 - 74 graduates
 - Quick class starting Thursday, June 9, 2016
 - Digital media class start in 2 weeks
 - Contractors Course
 - Next class start Mid-September.
- Tourist and Commission-Joe Banner
 - Next meeting June 14, 2016 at Petra’s
 - Television show here until June 28, 2016
 - Filming in Edgard
 - Film is another industry that will provide well paid jobs.
 - Interest from Wolverine
 - Roots televised last week featuring Evergreen
- South Central Planning and Development Commission
 - Regular program still available
- Workforce-Absent
- Entergy-Absent
- St. John Business Association-Absent

VIII. Items of Interest

Motion to replace old by laws with new bylaws. Motion made by Peggy Joseph and seconded by Evin Stein.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Taylor and seconded by Michelle Jenkins. Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- I. Executive Session meeting called to order at 1:16 p.m.
- II. Roll Call by Terri Abadie. Nora Pierre absent
- III. Seven (7) Committee members were present and one (1) absent. Quorum was met.
- IV. Review of EDC Revised By-laws by Madam Chairwoman-Peggy Joseph with no discrepancies. All members were in favor.
- V. Tommy Acosta made a motion to approve revised by-laws as amended and distributed to replace the previous set of by-laws. Motion seconded by Evin Stein.
- VI. A motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Joseph and seconded by Evin Stein at 1:19p.m.