

**St. John the Baptist Parish  
Economic Development Committee**  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
August 8, 2016

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

**Staff:**

Jerry Jones  
Denise Burrell  
Terri Abadie

**Guest:**

Lucien Gauff  
Joe Banner  
Kerry Jones  
Chasity McComack  
Linda Pruddhome  
Lois Frank  
Kevin George  
Sheryl Gaines  
Mrs. Taylor  
Lisa Maloz  
Steve Fraker

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Prayer and Pledge**

Mr. Leroy Mitchell led prayer. Tomy Acosta led pledge of Allegiance.

- Meeting open for public comments (3) Minutes (No Comments)

**IV. Adoption of Minutes from July 11, 2016 Meeting**

Motion from Robert Taylor and seconded by Michelle Jenkins to adopt the minutes of the July 11, 2016 meeting with no changes or corrections.

**V. Monthly EDC Update-Director Report**

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

- Met with artist Dana Bardell concerning the 2016 Andouille poster.
- Met with the Andouille Festival General Store Committee concerning the building that will be used and also the items that are planned to sell.
- Mailed out 500 sponsorship letters to various businesses. EDC Director expanded the area of food vendors due to the increase in the applications.
- Met with Cody Taylor, Director of Sales from Buxton, which is a retail customer analytic company.
- BRE meeting with Pinnacle Polymers and LED-Meeting served as an official visit from LED where EDC Director go into the plant and find ways to reach out to the leadership at the plant in order to find ways to assist in growing the plant and strengthening the works.
- Attended the National Association of Counties in Long Beach, California.
- Denise Burrell-Executive Secretary attended Dunkin Donuts 1 year anniversary.
- Met with Chassity at the Chamber to discuss how the chamber and the parish can do to work together with the educational initiative.
- Attended Ribbon cutting for the remodeling of Raising Canes.

- Attended Foxwood Levee Ribbon cutting ceremony.

### **Old Business**

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph reminded all EDC Committee Members to complete the required Ethics Training and submit a copy of certificate to Denise Burrell via email at [d.burrell@stjohn-la.gov](mailto:d.burrell@stjohn-la.gov)

### **VI. New Business**

**EDC Director-Jerry Jones gave a brief video presentation of what TIFS is and how it work.**

#### **Questions & Concerns:**

- **Tony Acosta-concerned about TIFS Districts in regards to Economic Development. Mr. Acosta doesn't feel the parish really need a TIFS District.**
- **Mr. Mitchell concerned funds are generated & going other places instead of EDC.**
- **Mr. Oubre raised question in regards to who is responsible for doing the planning.**
- **Chairwoman Peggy Joseph inquired how could the law get changed.**
- **Evin Stein asked if committee could get a chart to monitor funds.**
- **Jerry Jones asked committee members how do we move forward and noted he's here to provide information and follow instructions to what the EDC Committee put out.**

### **VII. Community Partners Update**

- RRCC-Chassity McComack
  - \*Co Sponsor for Backpack
  - \*Hosting Senator Cassidy-August 25, 2016 @ 11:30-Quality Inn
  - \*August 18, 2016 Congressman Cedric Richmond hosting a small business seminar.
  - \*Working with Superintendent George
- South Central LA Tech-Penny Freeman-Absent
- LSBDC – Wayne Aucoin-Absent
- Tourist and Commission-Joe Banner
  - \*50 contracts, coworkers met with 75 people. Brought people to the River Parish.
  - \*Expecting to see a million more visitors to come in to St. John Parish.
  - \*Still receiving inquiries from extremely popular & movie productions.
  - \*Film industry in Louisiana has dropped by 90%.
  - \*Backpack give away was very popular-about 700 kids attended. Working on improving logistics for people standing outside.
- South Central Planning and Development Commission-Lisa Maloz
  - \*Waiting on the state to accept money so it can be distributed to awardees. 1<sup>st</sup> batch will distributed shortly and 2<sup>nd</sup> batch shortly after.
- Port of South-Linda Pruddhome
  - \*Made a trip to Cuba with Department of Agriculture.
  - \*On Wednesday, August 10, 2016 the Port will be adding 2 new members. They will then become a 9-member Port authority.
- Workforce-Absent
- Entergy-Kerry Jones
  - \*St. Charles Power Station project-build a new power plant in Montz, LA-900 mega watts. This will benefit all of the customers in the region & 1.3 billion dollars in savings. This will pay for itself in 10 years and create jobs-2000 direct & indirect jobs. 700 people employed onsite.

- St. John the Baptist Parish School Board-Kevin George
  - \*Working with RRC to visit schools to tour.
  - \*Organizational meeting on August 17, 2016 at Technical School for 8:30a.m.
  - \*Working with Technical School to raise awareness with students.
  - \*Industry breakfast will start in September and will be quarterly.
  - \*1<sup>st</sup> day of school went well.
  
- St. John Business Association-Steve Fraker
  - \*Meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00p.m. Last month visited the Vo-Tech and this month will visit the Sheriff Office.
  
- FastTrac workshop will start in September. A few other workshops will take place as well.
- LED will host contractors' workshop.

**VIII. Adjournment**

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