

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 7, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

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

Absent:

Michelle Jenkins

Staff:

Terri Abadie
Denise Burrell

Guest:

Wayne Aucoin
Rhonda Lemons
Jean Stewart
Kimmie Carlos
Lois Frank
Penny Freeman
Chassity McComack
Mrs. Taylor
Jo Banner
Emily Arata
Kerry Jones
Cullen Curole
Cody Tayler

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman Peggy Joseph.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Prayer and Pledge

Prayer was led by Peggy Joseph. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Leroy Mitchell.

IV. Adoption of Minutes from March 7, 2016 Meeting

Motion from Elizabeth Joseph and seconded by Robert Taylor to adopt the minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting with no changes or corrections.

V. Public Comment

No comments made.

VI. Director's Report

No Director's Report

VII. Old Business

Ethics Training

- There is only one member that needs to complete the training.

VIII. New Business

Buxton Study

- Peggy Joseph introduced Mr. Cody Taylor from Buxton. Mr. Taylor proceeded to explain what his company is all about.(PowerPoint included)

TIF Districts

- Peggy Joseph introduced Ms. Emily Arata from Ochsner. Ms. Arata proceeded to explain what Ochsner has done in Jefferson Parish. (PowerPoint included)

IX. Community Partners Update

- Entergy – Kerry Jones stated he is happy to report that Entergy was a proud sponsor of this year's Andouille Festival and they will continue to support the festival
- LSBDC – Wayne Aucoin
 - This session's FastTrac Program has 15 students. The last class is on November 17th and looking to hold their graduation after Thanksgiving Holiday.
- River Region Tourist Commission – Kimmie Carlos
 - Introduce Peggy Joseph as the newly elected President of the Tourist Commission
- South Central Louisiana Technical College – Penny Freeman
 - Registration for Spring has begun. Classes start Jan 17th. The new building will be open and classes will begin there on the 17th as well. There are Scholarships and more Internships available in several programs. We are expecting classes to be filled and now is the time to apply.
- South Central Planning – Cullen Curole
 - The St John Small Business Grant and Loan Program is providing recovery funds to businesses that were able to evidence being impacted by Hurricane Isaac along with the patience to provide rigorous documentation required by the State and Feds to verify eligibility with the Recovery Program Requirements. Fourteen St John businesses will receive awards through the program totaling \$898,234 in combination Grants/Loans. As of the date of the meeting, \$664,882 had been disbursed into the community with five awards pending funding.
 - 80% of the Awards are in the form of loans and the repayments of these loans will become available as the source of future Small Business Loan lending into the St John community. This adds to existing funds available to small to medium businesses in the region for Expansions, New-Start-ups and limited Business Retention projects. For more information please contact Cullen or Lisa at South Central Planning & Development Commission at 985 665 1051.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Leroy Mitchell and seconded by James Oubre, Jr. Meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.