

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, December 4, 2017

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:**

Michelle Jenkins  
Elizabeth Joseph  
James Oubre, Jr.  
Peggy Joseph  
Robert Taylor  
Tomy Acosta  
Tyler Lewis

**Absent:**

Kali Jenkins  
Evin Stein

**Staff:**

Jerry Jones  
Denise Burrell  
Terry Abadie

**Guest:**

Kurt Becnel  
Lois Frank  
Mala Taylor  
Wayne Aucoin  
Penelope Freeman  
Chassity McComack  
Sylvia Clayton  
Bruce Fatheree  
Yasmaine Magee  
Yolanda Williams  
Dayna James  
Shaun Adams

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:06p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Seven (7) Committee members were present. (2) Absent. Quorum was met.

**III. Prayer and Pledge**

Elizabeth Joseph led prayer. Robert Taylor led pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Meeting open for public comments (3) Minutes**

- Lois Frank-Toys for Tots Free Event - December 16, 2017 1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. at Riverlands Christian Center.
- Sylvia Clayton - Tour on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at Historic Our Lady of Grace Church
- Yolanda Williams -Transportation

**V. Adoption of Minutes - tabled to next month (January) meeting**

Monthly EDC Update-Director Jerry Jones Report

- Bylaws are completed;
- Business counseling, including Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac Entrepreneurial Training Program and partnerships between St. John Business Training Center, Louisiana Economic Development Department & Louisiana Small Business Development Center helps businesses succeed. This year, FastTrac has graduated 40 potential new businesses. Graduation ceremonies were held at the South Central Louisiana Technical College (SCLTC)-Reserve Campus.
- Baumer Foods INC of Reserve was recently awarded the Lantern Award for the Bayou Region as presented by Louisiana Economic Development.
- Website- [www.opportunitystjohn.com](http://www.opportunitystjohn.com)
- Last year, we celebrated the Port of South Louisiana ribbon cutting ceremony for the expansion to warehouse #19 at Globalplex Intermodal Terminal. The \$9.6 million expansion created 22 new jobs while retaining 19. This project was funded in part by LA DOTD's Port Construction and Development Priority Program.
- Congratulated New EDC Member-Tyler Lewis

**VI. Old Business - EDC By-Laws**

## VII. New Business

- Election of Officers-Ms. Peggy Joseph Nominated herself to remain chair. Second by Robert Taylor. Michelle Jenkins nominated herself for chair and second by Tomy Acosta. Tied 3-3. Election Tabled to January meeting.
- Welcomed New EDC Member Tyler Lewis-Appointed by Councilman Kurt Becnel

## VIII. Community Partners Update

- **Entergy Louisiana** – Absent
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC)** – Wayne Aucoin & Yasmaine Magee
  - Next FastTrac start on March 8, 2017
  - Film Industry in St. John Parish-January
  - Round table for advance businesses that is coordinating with Chamber on January 16 & 23, 2018
  - Certification for FastTrac Program on January 25 & February 21, 2018
- **Port of South Louisiana** - Absent
- **River Parish Tourist Commission** – Absent
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce** - (RRCC) –Chassity McComack
  - Thank you to everyone for their support and commitment to help ensure our mission to Grow, Strengthen and Unify businesses in the River Parishes.
  - Leadership River Region progressing well with 21 participants. Next Registration will be May 2018.
  - Workforce Development Summit Regroup – December 12th, 9 am-11am at SCLTC-Reserve Campus.
  - Board of Directors annual retreat being held Thursday. Goals will be set for 2018.
  - Currently working with SBDC to plan a few targeted offerings to small businesses specially. Timeframe to start is January 16, 2018. In addition, one on one visits are in continuation.
  - Annual Banquet Scheduled for January 16, 2018, 11:30am at San Francisco in Garyville.
- **South Central Louisiana Technical College- Reserve Campus** - Penny Freeman
  - “Achieving the Dream” joins Country Music Television & Pilot partner, the American Association of Community Colleges, in a Commitment aims to strengthen American rural workforce in some of the most economically depressed areas by the number of residents with postsecondary degrees and credentials. 2018 selection committee has chosen SCLTC Reserve Campus to host one of eight concerts in March 2018.
  - Spring semester registration is open. Nursing classes begin in Spring, as well.
  - Several major projects on the horizon for upgrading the Main Campus.
  - Summer semester will be the first full semester under RPCC. This means students will have access to additional classes, especially General Education classes.
  - Christmas break is December 18<sup>th</sup> through January 2, 2018. Campus will be closed during that time for all intent and purposes.
  - Upcoming events-CMT Concert-March 2018 & Career Links Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** - Absent
- **St. John Business Association** – Absent
- **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** - Absent
  - Netflix booked at Center & New Wine Christian Fellowship Center
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** - Absent
- **Workforce Investment Board**-Absent

## I. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Jenkins and seconded by Tyler Lewis. Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.