

Iberia Economic Development Authority

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday – January 23, 2020

Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority

met on Thursday – January 23, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. at

101 Burke Street, New Iberia, LA 70560

Roy Pontiff called the meeting to order and called for the roll.

Members Present: Roy Pontiff, Jody Suire, Fran Henderson

Members Absent: Cecil Hymel

Others Present: Mike Tarantino, Evelyn Ducote, Jeff Simon

With there being no public comments, Mr. Pontiff welcomed Ms. Henderson to the Commission, and she executed her Oath of Office. Mr. Pontiff asked everyone to refer to Agenda item number 5, election of Officers for 2020. On a motion by Jody Suire, seconded by Fran Henderson, nominations for the Chairman were opened. Mr. Pontiff nominated Mr. Suire for IEDA Chairman for 2020. Ms. Henderson seconded Mr. Suire's nomination. By a unanimous vote, Mr. Suire is the 2020 IEDA Chairman. Mr. Suire assumed the Chair and asked for a motion to open nominations for IEDA Vice Chair. On a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Fran Henderson, nominations for Vice Chairman were opened. Mr. Pontiff nominated Ms. Henderson for IEDA Vice Chairman for 2020. Ms. Henderson seconded the nomination and by a unanimous vote, Ms. Henderson is the 2020 IEDA Vice Chairman. Mr. Suire asked for a motion to open nominations for IEDA Secretary. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Roy Pontiff, nominations for Secretary were opened. Ms. Henderson nominated Mr. Pontiff for IEDA Secretary for 2020. Mr. Pontiff seconded the nomination and by a unanimous vote, Mr. Pontiff is the 2020 IEDA Secretary. Mr. Suire asked for a motion to open nominations for IEDA Treasurer. On a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Fran Henderson, nominations for Treasurer were opened. Mr. Pontiff nominated Mr. Cecil Hymel for IEDA Treasurer for 2020. Ms. Henderson seconded the nomination and by a unanimous vote, Mr. Hymel is the 2020 IEDA Treasurer.

Mr. Suire to asked the commissioners to review the minutes of the regular December 2019 meeting. On a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Fran Henderson the minutes of the regular December 2019 meeting were unanimously approved. Mr. Suire asked the commissioners to review the December 2019 financials. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Roy Pontiff, the financials for December 2019 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Suire referred to agenda item number 8: Approval of authorization for IEDA commissioners to sign on the Community First Bank checking account and First National Bank of Jeanerette Line of Credit. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Roy Pontiff and adopted by a unanimous vote, the Commissioners authorized all IEDA Officers as signatures on the Community First Bank checking account and First National Bank of Jeanerette Line of Credit.

Mr. Suire asked the Commissioners to review agenda item number nine, to discuss and consider the creation of a standard contract for drone services and a policy for drone use. Mr. Tarantino noted that he had received drone training, and was close to taking his FAA drone pilot license test. Mr. Tarantino said that he felt the Commission needed to come up with a drone services contract. Mr. Simon stated that the Commissioners also need to develop a policy to address requests for drone services. Discussion was held regarding the development of a contract and policy. Mr. Tarantino said that he would come up with additional information to help the Commissioners address the contract and policy development. No action was taken on the agenda item.

Mr. Suire asked Mr. Tarantino to proceed with his business park funding and economic development updates. Mr. Tarantino reported the following:

Reported that we had received a notice from Facility Planning and Control that the contract for wastewater design for Progress Point Business Park was approved and Matt Landry can start the wastewater design. Reported that he had received three recent inquiries about lot availability in the park.

Mr. Tarantino noted that the current unemployment rate for Iberia Parish was up a bit, but nothing out of the seasonal ordinary. Reported that local retail sales were up a little, and staying strong and steady. He also reported that oil prices were down a bit, and natural gas prices are way down (due to the mild winter weather so far), but local oil and gas businesses are still holding steady. Noted that he has heard reporting that land drilling operations were down due to bank and financing issues. He noted that local businesses were still in great need of trained workers.

On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Roy Pontiff, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the IDF Offices.