

Iberia Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 17, 2020
Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority
met on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. at
101 Burke Street, New Iberia, LA 70560

Chairman Jody Suire called the meeting to order and called for the roll.

Members Present: Jody Suire, Roy Pontiff, Cecil Hymel

Members Absent: Fran Henderson, Damon Miguez

Others Present: Michael Tarantino, Evelyn Ducote, Jeff Simon, Matt Landry

Public Comments: None

Mr. Suire asked the Commissioners to review the November, 2020 meeting minutes. On a motion by Cecil Hymel, seconded by Roy Pontiff, the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Mr. Suire asked the Commissioners to review the financials for the month of November, 2020. Ms. Ducote noted there was nothing out of the ordinary monthly expenditures in the financials for the month. On a motion by Cecil Hymel, seconded by Roy Pontiff, the financials for the month of November, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Suire asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #6: Approval of the IEDA meeting dates for 2021. On a motion by Cecil Hymel, seconded by Roy Pontiff, the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Ducote said that she would have the meeting dates published as soon as possible.

Mr. Suire asked Mr. Tarantino to proceed with this business park and economic development updates. Mr. Tarantino reported that construction of the Airport Access Road project has started. He noted there had been a slight delay due to the delayed sugarcane harvest because of all the hurricane activity this past season. Mr. Tarantino noted that this project will be a significant economic development driver for the Acadiana Regional Airport and Iberia Parish when it is completed. Mr. Tarantino reported that Matt Landry was working with the farmers on working through the sewer right-of-way costs, but noted the costs should be minimal, and the final costs will be ready for the Commissioners to review at their next meeting. Mr. Tarantino reported that on the water side of the project, LAWCO was waiting on the final engineering designs from their engineers.

Mr. Tarantino reported he was working with a real estate professional to meet with the Progress Point working group to finish up the park's business plan. Noted he would be setting up a Working Group meeting shortly after the first of the year. Mr. Tarantino noted that this was the last official Authority meeting for members Jody Suire and Roy Pontiff, but stated he was happy that they would be still serving as advisors for the Progress Point Advisory Committee.

Mr. Tarantino reported that the Iberia Parish Council voted to appoint Bart Romero for a seat on the IEDA Board of commissioners, and his 3-year term will start on January 1, 2021.

Mr. Tarantino reported that retail sales in Iberia Parish were still very strong locally, and our available workforce numbers were remaining steady. Oil prices have been up a bit lately, and natural gas prices are still very strong. He also noted that Iberia Parish Government was still very keen on making more resources available for local economic development. Mr. Tarantino thanked all the Commissioners for their service over this past year.

On a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Cecil Hymel, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 7:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the IDF Offices.