

**Iberia Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 25, 2025**

Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority
met on Friday, July 25, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at
101 Burke Street, New Iberia, LA 70560

The meeting was called to order by Cecil Hymel and the roll was called for.

Members Present: Scott Saunier, Cecil Hymel, Fran Henderson, Bart Romero

Members Absent: Damon Miguez

Others Present: Michael Tarantino, Elizabeth Mauney, Troy Villa, Jeff Simon, Tom Moon, Brittany Manuel

Public Comments: None

Mr. Tarantino introduced Tom Moon and Brittany Manuel from First Solar. Mr. Moon, the plant manager, discussed hiring plans from now until First Solar is fully operational. Mr. Moon and Ms. Manuel discussed operations that are currently taking place and noted that they would like to have the board in for a tour as soon as some of the current activities die down. Collectively, the board thanked Mr. Moon and Ms. Manuel for coming in and introducing themselves and for all of the positive work and investments that First Solar has made in our community.

A motion was made by Fran Henderson, seconded by Bart Romero, and unanimously accepted, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy and/or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation with the Iberia Parish School District and the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office, after formal written demand when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. Ms. Mauney, MIs. Manuel, and Mr. Moon were excused from the building for the remainder of the executive session. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Scott Saunier, the motion to close the Executive Session was unanimously approved, and the regular session was resumed. Upon going back into regular session, Mr. Simon reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review the minutes for the month of June 2025. On a motion by Scott Saunier, seconded by Bart Romero, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review the financials for the month of June 2025. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Bart Romero, the financials were unanimously approved.

Mr. Hymel asked the commissioners to discuss and consider **Resolution 07.25.25.01**, authorizing the chairman to sign paperwork accepting state allocated funds for the Iberia Economic Development Authority contained in Act 1 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (State Visitor Enterprise Funds). On a motion by Bart Romero, seconded by Fran Henderson, **Resolution 07.25.25.01** was unanimously passed.

Mr. Hymel asked the commissioners to discuss and consider **Resolution 07.25.25.02**, authorizing the chairman to sign paperwork accepting state allocated funds for the Iberia Economic Development

Authority contained in Act 2 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (Capital Outlay). On a motion by Scott Saunier, seconded by Bart Romero, **Resolution 07.25.25.02** was unanimously passed.

Mr. Hymel asked Mr. Tarantino to give his Business Park update. Mr. Tarantino discussed the allocation of the new Capital Outlay money. Mr. Tarantino reported that UL would like to take a few tours of some out-of-state Bio Innovation/Industrial parks before moving forward with the designing phase of Progress Point. Mr. Tarantino gave an update on the upcoming Roundabout construction at Hwy 90 and Hwy 675.

Mr. Hymel asked Mr. Tarantino to give his Economic Development Update. Mr. Tarantino discussed the economic indicators for the month of June. Mr. Tarantino gave an update on all of the projects taking place at the Port of Iberia, noting that E-Crane just held the Christening of the “Creole King” crane that was recently completed. Mr. Tarantino also reported on the East Side Development Program taking place at the Acadiana Regional Airport

On a motion by Scott Saunier, seconded by Fran Henderson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2025, at 7:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the IDF Offices.