

Commerce & Industry Board Meeting Minutes
8401 United Plaza Blvd, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
April 28, 2015

Board Members Present: Steve Windham, Millie Atkins, Bryan Bossier, Mayor Glenn Brasseaux, Jeffrey Elmore, Richard Gonsoulin, Steven Grissom, Jerry Jones, William King, R.K. Mehrotra, Gale Potts Roque, Wilda Smith, Charles Soprano

Board Members Absent: Matt Parker, Lance Belcher, Gordon Burgess, Andre Fruge, Thomas Holden, Sen. Martiny, Rep. Ponti, Rep. Pugh, Sen. Riser

LED Staff Present: Joyce Metoyer, Lori Weber, Frank Favaloro, Danielle Clapinski, Brnda Guess, Eric Burton, Anne Villa, Melissa Sorrell

Call to Order: Chair Millie Atkins called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Wilda Smith, seconded by Jeffrey Elmore to accept the February 28, 2015 board meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Quality Jobs Prgram:

Frank Favaloro presented 3 Quality Jobs applications for approval.

A motion was made by Gale Potts Roque, seconded by Charles Soprano to approve all Quality Jobs applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank Favaloro presented 1 QJ renewal for approval.

A motion was made by Mayor Brasseaux, seconded by William King to approve the QJ renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank Favaloro presented 1 QJ contract to amend to include a project description.

A motion was made by Steve Windham, seconded by Wilda Smith to approve the contract to be amended to include a project description. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank Favaloro presented 6 Restoration Tax Abatement applications for approval.

A motion was made by Gale Potts Roque, seconded by Charles Soprano to approve all RTA applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank Favaloro presented 1 RTA renewal for approval.

A motion was made by Wilda Smith, seconded by Gale Potts Roque to approve the RTA renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Metoyer presented 10 new Enterprise Zone applications for approval.

A motion was made by Charles Soprano, seconded by William King to approve all EZ applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Metoyer presented 10 contract terminations for approval.

A motion was made by Charles Soprano, seconded by Jerry Jones to approve all EZ contract terminations. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Weber presented 252 Industrial Tax Exemption applications for approval.

A motion was made by Richard Gonsoulin, seconded by Wilda Smith to approve all ITEP applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Weber presented 10 ITEP name changes for approval.

A motion was made by Mayor Brasseaux, seconded by Steve Windham to approve all ITEP name changes. Jerry Jones recused himself from all Momentive Specialty Chemicals name change requests. Motion carried with a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 recusal.

Lori Weber presented 1 ITEP change in location for approval.

A motion was made by Gale Potts Roque, seconded by William King to approve the ITEP change in location. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Weber presented 2 late renewals for approval.

A motion was made by Richard Gonsoulin, seconded by Gale Potts Roque to approve the 2 late renewals. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Weber presented 2 renewals for approval.

A motion was made by Steve Windham, seconded by Mayor Brasseaux. Motion carried unanimously.

Steven Grissom gave an update on some of the economic activity occurring in Louisiana.

- ❖ Shintech – \$1.4 billion expansion in Iberville Parish
 - Estimated 100 new direct jobs
 - Retaining 335 existing jobs
 - 350 contract workers

- ❖ Sasol announced a groundbreaking in the Lake Charles area of a \$8.1 billion ethane cracker complex.
 - 500 new direct jobs
 - 2400 indirect jobs
 - Expectations for 5,000 construction jobs

Both are associated with ethane cracker projects. Sasol is investing in 6 chemical plants that will utilize the ethane produced and convert it into a broad range of chemicals used for products such as detergents, synthetic fibers, fragrances, paints, etc.

- ❖ CenturyLink completed a new technology center of excellence. A 300,000 sq. ft. facility.
 - 800 jobs
 - 1200 new indirect jobs in the Monroe area

- ❖ IBM announced a 400 job application development innovation center in Monroe with 400 indirect jobs.

The Department has a great pipeline of opportunities for companies looking to cross the state and the Department anticipates more investments in the coming months ahead.