

**Iberia Economic Development Authority**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2021**  
Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority  
met on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. at  
101 Burke Street, New Iberia, LA 70560

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called for.

Members Present: Cecil Hymel, Fran Henderson, Damon Miguez

Members Absent:

Others Present: Michael Tarantino, Evelyn Ducote, Jeff Simon, Bart Romero

Public Comments: None

Mr. Simon administered the Oath Of Office to Bart Romero to serve as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority. Mr. Romero affirmed his oath and officially joined the Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority.

A motion was made by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez to nominate Cecil Hymel for IEDA Chairman for this calendar year. By unanimous vote, the motion was adopted. Mr. Hymel assumed the gavel.

Mr. Hymel asked for nominations for the position of IEDA Vice Chair. A motion was made by Fran Henderson, seconded by Bart Romero to nominate Damon Miguez for the position of Vice Chair. By unanimous vote, the motion was adopted. Mr. Hymel called for nominations for the position of Treasurer. A motion was made by Damon Miguez, seconded by Bart Romero to nominate Fran Henderson for the position of Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hymel called for nominations for the position of Secretary. A motion was made by Damon Miguez, seconded by Fran Henderson to nominate Bart Romero for Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review the December, 2020 meeting minutes. On a motion by Damon Miguez, seconded by Fran Henderson, the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review the financials for the month of December, 2020. Ms. Ducote noted there was nothing out of the ordinary monthly expenditures in the financials for the month. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez, the financials for the month of December, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #8: Resolution authorizing the IEDA commissioners to sign on the Community First Bank checking account. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez and adopted by a unanimous vote, the Commissioners authorized all IEDA Officers as signatures on the Community First Bank checking account.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #9: Resolution authorizing the IEDA Chairman to execute all necessary paperwork required to accept funds allocated to the Iberia Economic Development Authority through the Louisiana State Capital Outlay Fund. Ms. Ducote noted that the prior IEDA Chairman, had been authorized to sign all necessary paperwork to accept funds for Capital Outlay, but since we have a new Chairman starting this month, we need to authorize him to sign all necessary documents. On a motion by Damon Miguez, seconded by Fran Henderson and passed by unanimous vote the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #10: Discuss and consider approval and acceptance of the IEDA audit for last fiscal year. Ms. Henderson reviewed the financial statements, noting there were no findings or adverse comments and it was a clean financial report. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez and unanimously approved, the IEDA audit for FY ending June 30, 2020 was unanimously approved and accepted.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #11: Introduction of resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute a Pad Site Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Easements affecting the property of the Iberia Economic Development Authority located at 900 E. Admiral Doyle Drive, New Iberia, acquired from Seritage Finance LLC. Mr. Simon explained that in October of 2020 the Commission had released one of the out parcels from the contract we had with Seritage, and Seritage has requested other changes that required us passing an additional resolution to cover their request. Mr. Simon said he saw no objections or negative repercussions if the commissioners approved their additional requests. Mr. Simon also noted that he received additional information late yesterday indicating that Seritage had entered into a transaction with Richard's Clearview LLC, effective December 31, 2020, involving the property. Mr. Simon noted he will review the documents he received and contact Mr. Jason Akers to review the status of all transactions concerning the property. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez and unanimously approved, the following resolution was introduced:

### **RESOLUTION 01282021-03**

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A PAD SITE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY OF THE IBERIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LOCATED AT 900 E. ADMIRAL DOYLE DRIVE, NEW IBERIA, ACQUIRED FROM SERITAGE FINANCE LLC.**

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #12: discuss and consider adopting the Progress Point Business Plan. Mr. Tarantino reported that the Progress Point working group had been working on the plan, and looked at improved valuations, lease rate formulas and reviewed the costs to develop the park. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they needed more time to review the proposed plan and no action was taken.

Mr. Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #13: Discuss and consider approval of the purchase of audio/visual presentation equipment including a large touch-screen monitor, mini-computer, wall mount, microphones, video camera, required connectors and installation charges, as well as an updated drone controller for a cost not to exceed \$14,000. Mr. Tarantino showed some of the recent drone footage he has been shooting for Parish Government, which they are finding extremely helpful. Mr. Tarantino also said the proposed equipment upgrades would be extremely helpful in showing site selectors and others potential sites in Iberia parish, as well as real-time status of Parish infrastructure projects. On a motion by Bart Romero, seconded by Fran Henderson the purchases were approved.

My Hymel asked the Commissioners to review agenda item #14: Discuss and consider reallocating \$12,000 from the Capital Outlay budget line item to the Office Equipment line item for the monitor, audio equipment and related installation charges, and \$2,000 from the Capital Outlay budget line item for upgraded drone equipment to the Economic Development Support Services line item, to pay for the above approved purchases. On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez, and passed unanimously, the commissioners approved the reallocation of budget funds as described above.

Mr. Hymel asked Mr. Tarantino to proceed with his business park and economic development updates. Mr. Tarantino said that work was being done on the draft crop damage release documents, and we should be able to present the documents to the Board for their approval at our next meeting. Noted he was working on three concepts for tenants looking to locate in Progress Point. Noted the price of oil has gone up a little lately. Noted our local unemployment rate was down to around 9%, down from a high of 14% during the big pandemic shutdown last year.

On a motion by Fran Henderson, seconded by Damon Miguez, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the IDF Offices.