

Iberia Economic Development Authority
Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 27, 2018 – 7:30 am
Board of Commissioners of the Iberia Economic Development Authority
101 Burke Street, in New Iberia, LA 70560

John Bellefontaine called the meeting to order and called for roll.

Members Present: John Bellefontaine, Roy Pontiff, Chad Courtois, Jody Suire

Others Present: Evelyn Ducote, Mike Tarantino, Jeff Simon

Mr. Bellefontaine noted there was no public in attendance. He then asked the commissioners to review the minutes of the August 2018 regular meeting. On a motion by Chad Courtois seconded by Jody Suire, the minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Bellefontaine asked the commissioners to review the August 2018 financials. On a motion by Jody Suire, seconded by Chad Courtois, the August financials were unanimously approved.

Mr. Bellefontaine referred to agenda item number 6: Discuss and consider authorizing the Chairman to sign required paperwork needed for the IEDA to submit a Capital Outlay application for Progress Point Business Park and Airport Gateway for FY 2019-2020. On a motion by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Jody Suire, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Bellefontaine invited Mr. Tarantino to proceed with his business park, funding and economic development updates. Mr. Tarantino reported that Iberia Parish received over \$14 million dollars worth of capital outlay funds approved by the Bond Commission. KATC sent a reporter to talk with Mike about the projects included. Mr. Pontiff noted the Speaker of the House said, Iberia Parish was “fortunate to have the Iberia Parish Economic Development Authority working as a collaborative partner with our local governments in evaluating needs and attracting business to our parish”. Mike noted the good publicity was wonderful for all the projects included, especially for the Parish’s airport access road project and thanked Parish President Richard and the Parish Council for all their hard work and support on the project. Mike reported that Mr. Richard had visited with him on Tuesday to discuss the pipeline relocation project and discuss any help and support he could offer. Mike said he and Mr. Richard had a discussion with Atmos representatives to see if they could help more the project along. Mr. Tarantino updated the Commissioners on the status of the questions Mr. Simon had sent to Facility Planning and Control regarding the pipeline relocation project. He reported that we have received an email update yesterday saying we should receive answers to the questions by the end of the week.

Mr. Tarantino updated the Commission on the process of replacing ex IEDA Commissioner Benny Menard. He stated that the IDF Nominating Committee was in the process of selecting a candidate for the IDF Board to approve and pass along to the Parish Council for their endorsement, and the new Commissioner would hopefully be seated before the end of the year.

Reported that he had attend the One Acadiana breakfast event yesterday in Lafayette featuring Dr. Loren Scott and his projections for the Acadiana economy for the next year. Dr. Scott spoke very highly about the opportunity and growth at the Port of Iberia and noted a good regional economy in 2019 and a great year in 2020. Mike noted that the unemployment rate for August 2018 was around 3% lower than it was in August 2017, and sales tax collections for the same period were up a bit. He said those were positive indicators for the Iberia Parish economy.

With no further business to come before the commissioners, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Jody Suire, seconded by Chad Courtois. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:30 am.