

*"Promoting Economic Growth"*

**ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**September 27, 2023**



**St. James Parish**  
LOUISIANA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brenda Melancon  
Louis Kliebert  
Charlene Williams  
Terrence Jones  
Ronald St. Pierre, Jr.  
Charles Farlough  
Camella Landry  
Kami Hymel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Steven Bourgeois  
Janet Johnson  
Brad Poche  
Harry Joseph  
Jeremy Catoire  
Kimberly Martin  
Rodney Johnson  
Janet Johnson  
Mac Bordelon

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:**

Audrey Temple-Manager  
Rose Strickland-Assistant  
Steve Nosaka-Guest  
Denise Burrell-River Parish Tourist Comm.

The September meeting of the St. James Economic Development Board was called to order by Chairwoman Camella Landry. Chairwoman Landry welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Charlene Williams delivered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Camilla Landry. Chairwoman Landry asked for the roll call and Audrey Temple called the roll. Chairwoman Landry recognized a quorum at this time.

Chairwoman Landry asked if there was any comments/correspondence at this time. Vice-Chairman Louis Kliebert presented written correspondence from The Port of South Louisiana Regarding the Purchase of Avondale Global Gateway.

Chairwoman Landry asked if there was any public comment on any agenda items requiring a vote and there was none at this time.

Chairwoman Landry asked for a motion for the August 30, 2023, minutes to be approved. On a motion by R J St Pierre and a second by Vice-Chairman Louis Kliebert, the August 30, 2023, minutes were approved. All were in favor.

**SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:** None

Chairwoman Landry spoke about the committee to choose a criteria for picking a small business. She said the committee would have to meet to discuss this issue. The committee will get with Ken Brass to find out what criteria he used for choosing a small business. They will start fresh in the beginning of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Veteran's Day Nov. 9, 2023. Rhonda Hotard will be the Guest Speaker. The wreath ceremony begins @ 3:30pm @ the Veterans Memorial Bridge. Veterans Day Program will start @ 4:30pm @ Lutchter Park. Kami Hymel will notify the Queens to be present for the ceremony.

R J St. Pierre stated that someone donated 50lbs of rice.

LSR will donate Chicken and Sausage Gumbo.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The first order of business was the reappointment of Steven Bourgeois to the board. R J St. Pierre moved, and Louis second. All in Favor.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

Audrey Temple updated us on the pumpkin patch.

She discussed they are trying to get more funding for the building next door, and the work that will be done on the Tourist Center.

Steve Nosacka-Mentioned Koch methanol is proposing a 56-million-dollar expansion at the Parish Council meeting.

DG Fuels below college point has a 31/2-billion-dollar project, advertising zero emissions.

R J St. Pierre asked if there could be a section in the Old Museum for Veterans.

Rose Strickland mentioned that all St. James Parish queens should have their picture posted somewhere in the Parish. Pictures should go back 75 years, to when it all began.

**River Parish Tourist Commission-**Denise Burrell attended La. Travel Summit last month and attended the Sports Relationship Conference at Notre Dame in South Bend Indiana and met the Sports Tourist Reps. She also met with Tevis Smith St. James Parish Recreation Director to see exactly what the parish has to offer regarding parks, and playing fields, etc.

She attended the Bonfire Festival Committee meeting and the Salad Station Grand Opening. She gave an update on the King Kat Fishing Tournament they hosted during the Alligator Festival.

**River Region Chamber-**Steve spoke about the Chamber Perks Event they hosted at St. James Parish Recreation Building.

**Town of Litcher**-Ronald St. Pierre, Jr. spoke about the openings of Salad Station, Rejuvenate Health, and PJ's coffee. There is also a Mexican Restaurant that will be opening soon called Pedros.

The town is also working on drainage issues and culverts. He also discussed the closing of Winn Dixie Pharmacy Sept. 28, 2023, and local pharmacies don't fill some medications. These medications will have to be filled at Walgreens' or CVS.

Town of Gramercy-Grand Opening of Exquisite Boutique on Main St.

GNO, Inc.-none

River Parishes Community College. – none

No report from the Port of South Louisiana.

**COUNCILMAN OF THE MONTH:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**


Audrey spoke about the 5k run for the pumpkin patch on Saturday October 14, 2023 & The Ribbon Cutting of a new business in Vacherie-Mon Amour Apparel & Gifts-Owner Kandi Falgoust on October 21, 2023.

Chairwoman Camilla commented about attending Grand openings. She attended the Grand opening for Rejuvenate Health and there weren't many attendees. She also congratulated Kami Hymel on being our 80<sup>th</sup> State Queen Sugar.

Starting in 2024 meetings will be held on Mondays.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Oct. 25, 2023

Chairwoman Landry asked for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. On a motion by Vice Chairman Louis Kliebert second by R J St. Pierre. All in favor.

  
Camella Landry, Chairman

  
Brenda Melancon, Secretary