



JEDCO Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026 @ 8:30 A.M.
JEDCO Conference Center
701-A Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094
MINUTES

Call to Order: 8:30 a.m.

Attended: Chairman Jim Martin, Mickal Adler, Roxanne Arocha, Jimmy Baum, Billy Douglass, Joe Ewell, Mike O'Connor, Mayra Pineda, Paula Polito, Joe Riccobono, Stephen Robinson, Gene Sausse, Melisa Simeon, Lynda Nugent Smith, Bob Stevens, and Teri Tucker

Absent: Darren Chifici, Josline Frank, Teresa Lawrence, Melissa O'Neal, and Shondra Williams

Staff: Jerry Bologna, Lacey Bordelon, Annalisa Kelly, Scott Rojas, Kelsey Scram, Penny Weeks, Kate Wendel, and Jennifer Wollfarth

Attorney: Reed Smith – Jefferson Parish

Guest: James Hannan – New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

I. Call to Order – Chairman Jim Martin

- **Approval of Board absences for today – February 26, 2026** – The Chairman announced that Josline Frank requested to have her absence from the February 19, 2026 meeting excused. Gene Sausse motioned, seconded by Jimmy Baum, to excuse Josline from the February 19 meeting, and to excuse Teresa Lawrence and Shondra Williams from today's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of minutes for February 19, 2026** – Jimmy Baum motioned, seconded by Billy Douglass to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Presentation – James Hannan, Chief Strategy Officer for New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center**

Mr. Hannan shared an overview of the proposed Omni New Orleans Hotel (1,006 rooms), saying this project will be the most transformative economic development opportunity in decades. The new hotel is expected to bring an annual economic impact of \$213.6M, 1,400 new permanent jobs, \$15.2M in annual net new city and state taxes after opening, and 27 new Convention Center events annually.

II. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

III. Unfinished and New Business

- **A resolution approving and adopting the 2025 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire – Jennifer Wollfarth**

Stephen Robinson motioned, seconded by Roxanne Arocha, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report – Jennifer Wollfarth

Ms. Wollfarth presented the financial reports which included budget-to-actual comparisons for the months of November and December. Included were reports for the general fund, EDGE, Forward Jefferson Corporation, JEDCO Development Corporation, and the loan funds. Each fund details actual expenses for the respective months and year-to-date totals, comparing these amounts to the approved budget for the year 2025.

V. President and CEO Report – Jerry Bologna

- Bryson Senter recently joined the JEDCO team and will serve as the Development Manager.
- JEDCO is sponsoring the Jefferson Delegation Luncheon in Baton Rouge on April 7. Commissioners were asked to RSVP to Penny Weeks if they plan to attend.
- Commissioners were presented with an outline of the Succession Plan for the President & CEO and Departmental Continuity Plans. These plans reflect JEDCO's commitment to sustaining a healthy functioning organization.
- Scott Rojas presented a short drone video of the road construction at Churchill Park: Fairfield Boulevard running North/South, and Innovation Way running East/West.

VI. Other Updates or Comments from the JEDCO Board of Commissioners

There were no other updates.

VII. Adjournment – Mayra Pineda motioned, seconded by Paula Polito, to adjourn the meeting.



Robert Stevens
JEDCO Secretary