

# Jasper County Economic Development, INC.

## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:15pm**

**SPECIAL MEETING PLACE:  
SMITHENRY INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARM  
2248 N. 1000<sup>th</sup> St. Newton, IL 62448**



**Attending: Amber Volk, Mark Bolander, Marlene Harris, Larry Brooks, Ron Helstley, Jason Warfel, Doug Weddell, Aaron Ochs, Ben Bollman, Amber Wakefield, Sarah Kinkade, Dave Jansen, Lucas Patridge, Derek Mitchell, Ami Smithenry, Mark Smithenry and family.**

1. Tour of Smithenry Industrial Hemp Farm. Transportation was provided by Wad it Up Transport & DJ Service.
  - a. Ami Smithenry was full of information with her presentation on hemp. Currently in their 1<sup>st</sup> year and are growing 4 different strains on just under 2 acres to determine the best plant for their climate. The Smithenry Industrial Hemp Farm's plants will be used to produce CBD oil. CBD oil can be used for pain management and is not a hallucinogen. All hemp plants must be below .3% THC level.

Ami explained the multiple steps they had to complete in order to start growing.

    - Obtaining their hemp growers license from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
    - Find a buyer of their harvested plant.
    - Preparing the land and green house.
    - Purchase of the hemp seed.
    - And many more.



She continued to describe the harvesting process and how a hemp plant can be completely utilized in many different products.

Ami and Mark Smithenry are excited about their new journey and are hoping more Jasper County residents will start farming hemp. For more information about Smithenry Industrial Hemp Farm or starting your own hemp farm, contact Ami at 618-783-1671 or sih2020@yahoo.com.

2. Call to order, Vice Chairman Jason Warfel
3. Motion to approve previous June 2020 meeting minutes made by Ron Heltsley, second by Doug Weddell, motion passed.
4. Monthly Updates
  - a. Amber Volk, Executive Director
    - i. Rebuild Illinois: Economic Development Grant Program: JEDI Executive Board approved the amount of \$2,500 for SCIRPDC grant writing fee. JEDI is perusing the Economic Development Grant Program to purchase and develop land.
    - ii. West End Reception & Events: progress is continuing and will soon have the shell up.
    - iii. BJ's Saloon Inc (located South West in the county by Newton Lake): ground has been broken and construction is moving.
    - iv. Remedies (previously Solid Grounds): Makes family meals available for drive-thru pickup along with alcoholic drinks. Their limited menu can be order via their private Facebook group.
    - v. Marketing Committee will be meeting with Amber Wakefield for further discussions on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Chamber Building a 2pm.
  - b. Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton
    - i. Many projects are still going during the COVID-19 pandemic
      1. Senior Living Apartments, Sarah Busch Lincoln Clinic, West End Reception & Events, First National Bank In Olney.
    - ii. There is still a ½ tote of hand sanitizer remaining. There will be another sale this month. Will update in near future with more information.
  - c. Ron Heltsley, Jasper County Board Chairman
    - i. The next County Board meeting is this Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm located in the County board room.
    - ii. We will be working on updating the County liquor license.
  - d. Sarah Kinkade, Chamber of Commerce Director
    - i. Had a meeting Tuesday night discussing events. Cruise night will continue but individuals will be staying in their vehicles. Currently surrounding areas have been canceling events.
5. Comments from those attending the meeting: None
6. Motion to close meeting made by Marlene Harris, second by Larry Brooks, and m