

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC) MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at Noon, First Guaranty Bank

The regular meeting of the Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission was called to order, and the following attendance was noted.

Name	Standing for	Present	Absent
Dr. Shane Fontenot	City of Jennings	X	
Ed Orgeron	City of Jennings	X	
Alexia Dubreuil	City of Jennings	X	
Ronnie Petree	Town of Welsh	X	
Gabe Fontenot	At Large	X	
Kendal Henry, Chairman	JDP Police Jury	X	
Will Hetzel, Vice Chairman	JDP Police Jury	X	
Roger Mallett	JDP Police Jury	X	
Beth Daigle, Secretary/Treasurer	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Cesilee Oliver	EDC Director	X	
Linda LeBlanc	EDC Facilitator	X	
Jerry Theunissen	Advisory Board Member	X	
Tony Hulsey	Advisory Board Member	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings		X
Mayor Poncho LeJeune	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Mayor Karl Arceneaux	Town of Welsh	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Parish Administrator		X
Richard Arceneaux	Attorney		X
Greg Marcantel	CPA	X	
Nikki Trahan	CPA Office	X	

Guest Present: Jeanne Boudreaux with Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce, D'Arcy Knight with Jennings Daily News, Representative Skip Broussard, Gus Fontenot and Paul Moses with SWLA Business Alliance

Call to Order: Chairman Kendal Henry called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge: Ronnie Petree led the prayer, and Roger Mallett led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of August 12, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of June 10 and July 8, 2026, as presented.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Ed Orgeron, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the financial report for May, June and July 2026, as presented.

Old Business: Nothing new to report on the location of a new office. Greg Marcantel reported three bids were being obtained by the City of Jennings to repair windows and siding at the current office.

New Business:

- Cesilee Oliver reported the rezoning request by Solugen on Oil Field Road would be deferred at the Police Jury meeting because there currently does not appear to be enough votes for approval. The attorney representing Solugen contacted nearby landowners with some understanding of the project, but some still have concerns with the chemicals being transported and stored at the site. The chemicals involved were described as having relatively manageable risks compared with other industrial hazards such as chemicals transported by rail and interstate traffic. The company has offered to pave the road and intends to use the I-10 frontage road rather than Highway 90, helping avoid additional traffic and wear on the parish bridge. Cesilee provided a Safety Data Sheet as well as a letter from a landowner that is an engineer, raising important points about the project. Continued discussion on the rezoning included Solugen's future plans for manufacturing, zoning rules of dormant property reverting back to original use of land, having the project located in Lacassine Park that is owned by Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) where there are more residences located nearby than near the original site, the Lacassine Park not being available for lease only not purchase, have the Police Jury create a new independent zoning board and not have the Police Jury serve as the zoning board, and rezoning property to I-2 in general.

Director's Report:

- Toured the Youngsville Recreation Facility and learned how their project began, the operational costs and funding of the project. She learned the focus was not so much on travel ball, but on the community impact and quality of life provided to the community. Plans are to mail a survey to all registered voters to get an accurate survey response on a parish recreational facility.
- Began marketing JDP on social media focusing on Houston and Mississippi areas. Over past 90 days the post had 262,000 views, gained 1,500 followers, and the rice harvest post had over 40,000 views.

Announcements:

- Ribbon Cutting is at 10:00am on Thursday, August 13, 2026, for the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Jeff Davis Parish Water and Sewer Commission #1 project in Lacassine
- Julia Letlow Meet & Greet is at 4:00pm on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Jeff Davis Electric office in Jennings.
- Jeff Davis Parish Workforce Alliance Lunch & Learn will be 12:00-1:00pm on Wednesday, August 16, 2026, at Jennings SOWELA Campus.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Ronnie Petree, and passed unanimously to adjourn.

I, Cesilee Oliver, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission on August 12, 2026.



Cesilee Oliver, Director