

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC) MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 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	
Alexa 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, Steve Broussard

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

Prayer and Pledge: Ronnie Petree led the prayer, and Dr. Shane Fontenot led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of September 9, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Alexa Dubreuil, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of August 12, 2026, as presented.

Approval of Financials: August 2026 financial report was not available.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Kendal Henry announced she was resigning as the Economic Development Chairman but would like to remain on the Board for the remainder of her term serving as a Police Jury representative.
- A motion was made by Will Hetzel, seconded by Ronnie Petree and passed unanimously to nominate and elect Gabe Fontenot as the Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission Chairman for the remainder of the year.
- A motion was made by Roger Mallett, seconded by Will Hetzel and passed unanimously to remove Kendal Henry from the list of bank account signers and to approve Gabe Fontenot as a signer on all Jeff Davis Economic Development bank accounts.

Director's Report:

- Economic Development Director Cesilee Oliver stated a town hall meeting had been held in Welsh relating to rezoning of property located on Oilfield Road for Solugen where citizens had an opportunity to learn more about the project and were able to ask questions. A public hearing is scheduled for the next Police Jury meeting regarding the consideration of the re-zoning request by Solugen.
- Attended the Louisiana Economic Alliance for Development (LEAD) annual conference to learn perspectives on economic development and updates across the country.
- Continued rezoning efforts. It was noted that according to parish ordinances, properties that have been rezoned and remain undeveloped within a 5-year period revert to original zone if not developed.
- Working with Southwest Alliance to certify a site in Roanoke, working on retail sites in Jennings.
- Visited Cameron Parish to visit the refuge to learn about coastal restoration. Also toured Venture Global and Calcasieu Pass 2 to see the whole project and learn how it's affecting the areas, not only Cameron Parish but surrounding parishes as well.
- Attended SpaceX announcement event and hopefully will get some projects off of that development.
- Sponsored the Chennault air show, attended LegisGator, attended the groundbreaking event for the water project in Lacassine, attended Julia Letlow event, toured rail facility and the new projects at the Port of Lake Charles.
- Appointed as a member of the Louisiana Economic Foundation Board along with Gabe Fontenot.
- Will tour data center in Des Moines with SWLA Business Alliance to learn how centers affect surrounding areas workforce-wise and other investments, will fly to D.C. with a Jeff Davis delegation to meet with congressmen.

Stakeholders Update:

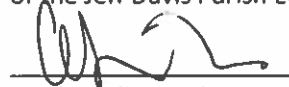
- Discussed developing a plan on routing SpaceX traffic on LA-26 and other state highways using gateway signage and Tourism to capitalize on the SpaceX project.
- Ben Boudreaux discussed creating special districts along I-10 and other highways to have expanded land use for I-3, including the railroad, Highway 90, north on Hwy 165, and south on Hwy 26 areas. Also reported the permitting process was going online and zoning is now on the GIS site,
- Jennings Mayor Henry Guinn presented the city's zoning map to show where available industrial sites are located. More fiber will be installed, and the water plant will put out over 8 million gallons of water a day.
- Lake Arthur Mayor Poncho LeJeune stated O'Reilly was progressing and DOTD finally approved the driveway permit.

Announcements:

- Teal Festival is Saturday, September 19, 2026, in Elton
- State of the Economy with Loren Scott event in Lake Charles October 7, 2026.
- Next Economic Development meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

A motion was made by Roger Mallett, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, 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 September 9, 2026.



Cesilee Oliver, Director

