

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC)
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Wednesday, March 11, 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	
Vacant	At Large		
Kendal Henry, Chairman	JDP Police Jury		X
Will Hetzel, Vice Chairman	JDP Police Jury	X	
Vacant	JDP Police Jury		
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: Haseeb Usmani with Aypa, Zach Hager with Entergy, D’Arcy Knight with Jennings Daily News

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Will Hetzel called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge: Ronnie Petree led the prayer, and Will Hetzel led the pledge.

Will Hetzel announced that Police Jury Representative Tony Trahan had resigned from Jeff Davis Economic Development Board.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of March 11, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of February 11, 2026, as presented.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the financial report for January 2026 as presented.

Old Business: Will Hetzel has been re-appointed to serve as a Police Jury representative with term to end December 31, 2029.

Nominations of Judy Petry and Gabriel Fontenot were reviewed for the vacant At-Large Board Member position with the term to expire December 31, 2027.

A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed unanimously to approve the election results for Gabriel Fontenot to serve as the At-Large Board Member with term to expire December 31, 2027.

New Business: Haseeb Usmani, Sr. Manager Project Director with Aypa, delivered a presentation on a battery energy storage project that develops, builds, and operates utility-scale energy storage utilizing commercially viable technologies, to create a more sustainable and reliable grid.

Director's Report: EDC Director Cesilee Oliver reported she had completed a LEAD course in New Orleans, will be working on creating a much needed base line for a data program for Jeff Davis Parish, attended the Police Jury conference in Lake Charles, attended a hanger ground breaking ceremony at Chennault, and attended a Taste of SOWELA event in Lake Charles. She stated Love the Boot week is April 18-25 and Economic Development is partnering with the Chamber and Tourist Commission for a cleanup day at the I-10 Park on April 18 and invited Board members to participate. The Jeff Davis banquet will be April 23 at Bayou Rum with tickets and tables still available for purchase. The speaker for the event will be LSU President Dr. Wade Rouse and encouraged Board members to attend for an elevated banquet experience. Cesilee asked that the Board be prepared to take headshots at the next meeting to be used for marketing Jeff Davis Economic Development.

Stakeholder's Update: Town of Welsh Mayor Karl Arceneaux reported bids were opened and awarded for the 1st phase of the frontage road extension with the pre-construction meeting to take place the 1st week of April.

Announcements:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at First Guaranty Bank.
- LA Ethics Financial Disclosure Report Tier 2.1 Due May 15, 2026.
- Ethics Training for Board Members Due December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Alexa Dubreuil, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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 March 11, 2026.


Cesilee Oliver, Director