

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

Wednesday, April 8, 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 Fopntenot	At Large	X	
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: Carter Prejean with Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission, Zach Hager with Entergy, Alex Guillory with Blue Wing Civil Consulting, Tara Miller with Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce, D'Arcy Knight with Jennings Daily News.

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

Prayer and Pledge: Ronnie Petree led the prayer, and Kendal Henry led the pledge.

Kendal Henry recognized Gabe Fontenot as the new At-Large Board Member and thanked him for providing the meal for the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Alexa Dubreuil, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of April 8, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: Ronnie Petree stated the JDP Day at the Capitol on March 30th was a success and thanked those that were involved in planning the event.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026, as presented.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Ronnie Petree, and passed unanimously to approve the Friday office hours to be 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Director's Report: JDP Economic Development Director Cesilee Olliver reported she had a BRE (Business Retention and Business) visit with Hunt's Repellent and LED, went to Baton Rouge to meet with LED Fastsite Program officials to learn more about the LED's Fastsite Program. The visit included reviewing the recently submitted application for infrastructure leading to the T.O. Allen property that funds were not granted for and to learn how to improve on the next application. She visited the Exxon Campus in Houston and learned about Exxon's extensive research on carbon capture and low carbon solutions. Planned and held JDP Day at the Capitol on March 31 where JDP local Doug Dugas provided music and Breaux's Cajun Kitchen provided the meal with the event being well attended and very successful. She is working with Ben Boudreaux on a battery storage project, attended the US Senator Candidate Julia Letlow's fundraiser, and will attend the Thornwell Water District Board meeting to discuss the need for water in the Lacassine Park area and the projects our parish has lost out on because of the lack of water infrastructure, and is assisting in the planning of the National Police Jury convention for JDP to be well represented and promoted.

Stakeholder's Update: Mayor Henry Guinn reported the STOL aviation event will be this weekend with about 45 pilots from across the USA registered to attend and the water plant construction should be complete and online between the middle to end of 2027. Mayor Guinn stated he was working with Wayne Hensgens to list his 1,200-acre farm located near I-10 with LED. Municipal water and sewer are available, and that 950-acres are useable as the other acres were in a flood zone. Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux suggested Mayor Guinn contact DOTD for the frontage road extension for access to the property.

Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux stated he appreciated the collaboration to move JDP forward. He stated the water booster station in Lacassine is underway, a Topsy road project is going out for bids, and an ordinance for battery storage was being planned for introduction. Term limits for committee board members were being set, and a new nomination process was put in place to re-appoint or appoint new board members. He agreed the JDP Day at the Capitol was a success and was a win for our parish.

Announcements:

- Carter Prejean announced the STOL aviation event was this weekend, Love the Boot cleaning campaign at I-10 Park April 18th, Bayou Rum Run is scheduled for May 16th and Turn It Up Tuesday events.
- JDP Banquet April 23rd at Bayou Rum with Dr. Wade Rousse as the speaker
- Rick Arceneaux reminded everyone that May 16 is Election Day.
- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, May 13, 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 Ronnie Petree, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontonot, 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 April 8, 2026.



Cesilee Oliver, Director

