

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

Wednesday, May 13, 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
Roger Mallett	JDP Police Jury	X	
Gabe Fontenot	At Large		X
Kendal Henry, Chairman	JDP Police Jury	X	
Will Hetzel, Vice Chairman	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		
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, Jeanne Boudreaux with Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce, D'Arcy Knight with Jennings Daily News, Doris Maricle with American Press.

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

Prayer and Pledge: Tony Hulsey led the prayer, and Ed Orgeron led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of May 13, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: Tourism Director Carter Prejean announced the Bayou Rum Run would be held on Saturday, May 16 and currently has over 200 registered participants.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed

unanimously to approve the minutes of April 8, 2026, as presented.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Roger Mallett to increase the salary of Linda LeBlanc by \$2,000 effective July 1, 2026.

The Tourist Commission will not be renewing the joint service agreement with the City of Jennings for the use of the city-owned building currently serving as office space in the I-10 Park. The building is presently occupied by the Tourist Commission and Economic Development staff. To maintain the momentum and collaborative efforts among the directors of the Tourist Commission, Economic Development, and the Chamber of Commerce, discussion was held regarding the possibility of housing all three entities under one roof. Further discussion included potential lease options with the City of Jennings, the construction of a new office building at the park, and the purchase of property for relocation of an office space to accommodate all three entities.

Director's Report:

- JDP Banquet was a success and had over 300 in attendance
- Partnered with the Chamber for Love the Boot cleanup campaign with over 50 participants
- Attended SWLA Day at the Capital and the Energy Woodside reception
- Visited with LED Secretary Bourgeois
- Met with a potential business to locate in Jennings
- Hunt started Phase 2 in Elton
- Had meetings and discussions pertaining to office relocation

Stakeholder's Update:

- Discussed overlay project
- Fall election for road renewal tax and rededication of tax for animal shelter
- RFP for Landfill

Announcements:

- Rick Arceneaux reminded everyone that May 16 is Election Day.
- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at First Guaranty Bank.
- Chamber Director Jeanne Boudreaux stated a Business after Hours would be held in Lake Arthur in June with plans to have the next one in Welsh, and the annual golf tournament is set for October 23, 2026.
- LA Ethics Financial Disclosure Report Tier 2.1 Due May 15, 2026.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Roger Mallett, 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 May 13, 2026.



Cesilee Oliver, Director