

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (JDPEDC) MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 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: Carter Prejean with Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission, Jeanne Boudreaux with Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce, D'Arcy Knight with Jennings Daily News, Zach Hager with Entergy, Alex Guillory with Bluewing Civil Consultants, Representative Skip Broussard, Police Juror Tim McKnight, Gus Fontenot with SWLA Business Alliance

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

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

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of June 10, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of May 13, 2026, as presented.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to approve the financial report for April 2026 as presented.

Old Business: None

New Business: Kendal Henry stated it was generally agreed a new office location would best serve the parish to bring the offices of tourism, economic development and the chamber in one physical office location, operationally and collaboratively. Office locations options are being evaluated including leasing, purchasing or constructing a facility. The goal is to create a professional and welcoming space that showcases the parish and provides a positive impression for visitors and partners. Ronnie Petree stated the Capital One Jennings branch is now on the market through a New Orleans realtor and suggested the building be toured and to acquire information such as age of roof and central unit. In the past Capital One has been generous at selling to a government entity. Possibly other government entities within the parish could donate funds to assist in the purchase of this building or construction of a new building.

Director's Report:

- Working on press release for the award of over two million to construct a 300,000 gallon above water tank in Lacassine
- Met with a business in Lacassine for a potential expansion
- Assisted the State FFA officer nominating committee and provided information on how economic development and agricultural education plays a role in workforce development
- Attended the Industrial Board meeting where the Pilot program and other incentives were discussed
- Discussed a new business locating in Jennings that is working through the permitting process
- TO Allen property is under a NDA and currently under negotiations

Stakeholder's Update:

- Mayor Poncho LeJeune reported currently working on a water project and 90% off the town will have new water lines, O'Reilly's was working on permit process, Freedom Fest on June 27
- Mayor Henry Guinn reported currently working on 26-27 budget, discussed recent failed tax elections, expand economic development district, working on infrastructure improvements for Chick-fil-A, discussed closure of public pool, July 4th celebration will take place July 3rd
- Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux reported three million dollar overlay project, working on 1 million dollar grant to asphalt roads, getting \$750,000 for water infrastructure improvements
- Welsh is having celebration on July 4th, Bayou Blues music series will be held at Sportsman Park
- Ronnie Petree reported on the SOWELA expansion for the nursing and welding programs and letters of support are being provided to obtain funding

Announcements:

- Cesilee Oliver reminded everyone that early voting opens June 12 for the state senator election and June 27 is Election Day.
- There will be no July Economic Development meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at First Guaranty Bank.

A motion was made by Roger Mallett, seconded by Ed Orgeron, 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 June 10, 2026.



Cesilee Oliver, Director

