

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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
Creed Romano, CEO/President	Jeff Davis Economic Development		X
Mike Heinen	J.D. Tourist Commission	X	
Beau Hearod	Jennings	X	
Shane Fontenot	Jennings	X	
Judy Petry, Secretary/Treasurer	JD Tourist Commission	X	
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Carter Prejean	Jennings	X	
Marilyn Watkins	JD Tourist Commission	X	
Rick Arceneaux	Attorney	X	
Greg Marcantel	CPA	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn, Advisory	City of Jennings	X	
Tony Hulse	Advisory Board Member		X
Senator Jerry Theunissen	EDC Advisory Board	X	
Pat Hanley	EDC Advisory Board		X
Jim Wright	EDC Advisory Board		X
Zach Hager, Guest	Entergy	X	
Megan Duhon, Guest	One Acadiana		X
Linda LeBlanc, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Macey Guidry	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Shella Chapman	Jeff Davis Tourist Commission Chairman	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Jeff Davis Parish Administrator	X	
Poncho LeJeune	Town of Lake Arthur		X
Nikki Trahan	Greg Marcantel office		X

Call to Order: Chairman Ronnie Petree called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Pledge: Chairman Ronnie Petree led the prayer, and Senator Theunissen led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mike Heinen, seconded by Marilyn Watkins and passed unanimously to approve the presented agenda.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of December 11, 2024, as presented.

Approval of Financials: The November 2024 financial reports were not available.

Public Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: It was moved by Judy Petry, seconded by Beau Hearod, and passed unanimously to accept the resignation of President/CEO Creed Romano.

It was moved by Mike Heinen, seconded by Marilyn Watkins, and passed unanimously to reapprove the 2025 Joint Service Agreements between Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission and Jeff Davis Parish Landfill Commission, between Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission and Jeff Davis Tourist Commission, and between Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission, Jeff Davis Tourist Commission, and Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce. Carter Prejean left the meeting before the vote was taken.

Greg Marcantel provided an update on amending the EDC Charter and stated the Joint Service Agreements are to continue business as has been done in previous years, and the agreements would be nullified with the adoption of a new Economic Development Charter. Restructuring as has been discussed, would have the Tourist Commission formally withdraw from the Economic Development Commission, the Police Jury would vote to join and appoint 3 members, the City of Jennings would appoint 3 members, the Town of Welsh would appoint 1 member, and the Town of Lake Arthur would join and appoint 1 member. A 9th member would be selected by the Board at large from recommendations anywhere within the parish. The 4 entities that own the landfill control the funding and represent the entire parish, so it would be appropriate for those that provide the money to have a seat at the table. Ben Boudreaux had previously requested the Police Jury to have representation as did Mayor Poncho LeJeune for Lake Arthur. Currently the City of Jennings has a restriction for their representative to live within the Jennings city limits. The new charter would be less restrictive and have a requirement to live or work within the parish. Mr. Marcantel stated that if the Police Jury became a member of the Economic Development Commission, that would qualify an Economic Development employee to have retirement benefits with the Parochial Employees' Retirement System and participate in the system through the Tourist Commission as is done currently. The Tourist Commission budget would stand alone, the Economic Development budget would stand alone, and the Chamber budget would stand alone. Each entity would have its own director.

Ronnie Petree stated March 6 would be the "JDP Alive in 25" event at the Bayou Rum Event Center in Lacassine.

It was moved by Judy Petry, seconded by Marilyn Watkins, and passed unanimously to approve the payment of \$1,000.00 to the Jeff Davis/Acadia Parish Leadership Excel Program.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at First Guaranty Bank.

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

I, Ronnie Petree, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission on January 8, 2025.


Ronnie Petree, Chairman