

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

Wednesday, February 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 |
| Skip Broussard | At Large | | X |
| Kendal Henry, Chairman | JDP Police Jury | X | |
| Will Hetzel, Vice Chairman | JDP Police Jury | X | |
| Tony Trahan | 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 Marcangel | CPA | X | |
| Nikki Trahan | CPA Office | X | |

Guest present: Carter Prejean with Jeff Davis tourist Commission, Jeanne Boudreaux and Tara Miller with Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce, Gus Fontenot and Paul Moses with SWLA Business Alliance, Steve Broussard, Janae Jamison and Corey with Pattern Energy, D’Arcy Knight with Jennings Daily News

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

Prayer and Pledge: Tony Hulsey led the prayer, and Cesilee Oliver 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 February 11, 2026, as presented.

Public Comments: D’Arcy Knight reported that the Council on Aging needed small prizes for activities, the City of Jennings Festival Association needed 2 volunteers to be judges for the Jennings Mardi Gras parade, and the Louisiana Grass Roots documentary was a success. Kendal Henry reported the foundation was being poured for

the Billy Boudin project. Welsh Mayor Karl Arceneaux reported Coastal Cajun Kitchen had opened, the Mexican restaurant would soon be opening, will be opening bids for the service road extension, and the EV charging station was not doing as good as expected.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Alexa Dubreuil, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of January 14, 2026, as presented.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Ed Orgeron, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the financial report for December 2025 as presented.

Old Business: Lake Arthur Mayor Poncho LeJeune stated the Town of Lake Arthur had approved the term of Beth Daigle to expire December 31, 2026.

New Business: Chairman Kendal Henry announced Reese "Skip" Broussard will be resigning as the Member-at-Large Board Member due to his winning the election to serve as District 37 State Representative.

Board Members will nominate a replacement to fill the Member-at-Large term that expires December 31, 2027. Nominations and bios are to be emailed to Linda LeBlanc by March 1. The list of nominees with bios will be emailed to Board Members for review and voting will take place at the March 11, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made by Will Hetzel, seconded by Alexa Dubreuil, and passed unanimously to ratify a letter of support sent to SOWELA Chancellor Aspinwall for proposed Jennings campus expansion.

Director's Report: EDC Director Cesilee Oliver presented a slide show on her recent trip to Washington D.C. for D.C. Mardi Gras. She highlighted meetings with House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senator Bill Cassidy where she presented infrastructure needs of Jeff Davis Parish, toured Capitol Hill, attended the US Chamber and the Economic Development luncheons, networked at various receptions promoting Jeff Davis Parish. She reported Jeff Davis Electric had been awarded 16.8 million dollars for reconstruction of lines and equipment from hurricane damage. Cesilee attend a republican women's event where she was able to visit with Governor Landry, attended the Chamber's Legislative Breakfast where the local legislators stated they would be working on insurance and workforce development, met with schoolboard officials and Pattern Energy about workforce development and intern programs, attended One Acadiana's 2-day site consultant program, had a site visit with Metal Plate Galvanizing about future development plans, plans to attend the Police Jury Convention in Lake Charles, and will attend the week long Louisiana Economic Alliance & Development classes in New Orleans. Cesilee reported she was working with Carter Prejean and Jeanne Boudreaux to plan a Jeff Davis Parish banquet on April 23rd at Bayou Rum in Lacassine.

Stakeholder's Update: Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux reported bids would be opened for the water booster station in Lacassine, a generator was installed at the health unit, and a sales tax renewal that brings in about 3 million dollars will be on the November ballot for road maintenance as well as the rededication of the jail tax for funding of the operation and funding of the animal shelter.

Jennings Mayor Henry Guinn reported on the ongoing water plant remodel and extension project, upgrades being made at the Utility Administration building to convert from manual to digital water plant operations, contracting with Blue Wing Civil Consultants on the final design of the Zigler extension project, going to the legislature for funding 9.2 million for the project's remaining balance, working with DOTD to finalize agreement for a new retail establishment located near Walmart. Mayor Guinn invited all to attend the Jennings Mardi Gras parade.

Town of Lake Arthur Mayor Poncho reported they had an outstanding Mardi Gras parade with 82 parade entries with around 1,600 people riding in the parade and many spectators watching the parade and supporting local businesses. He stated that 23,000 feet of water lines and 400 new services are being installed and fiber optic lines are being run in all of Lake Arthur.

Announcements:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, March 11, 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 Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

