

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

Wednesday, May 14, 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
City of Jennings Representative	Jennings		X
Dr. Shane Fontenot	Jennings	X	
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Carter Prejean	Jennings	X	
Skip Broussard	At Large	X	
Kendal Henry, Chairman	Police Jury	X	
Will Hetzel, Vice Chairman	Police Jury	X	
Chrystal Breaux	Police Jury		X
Beth Daigle, Secretary/Treasurer	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Rick Arceneaux	Attorney		X
Greg Marcantel	CPA	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings	X	
Mayor Kark Arceneaux	Town of Welsh		X
Mayor Poncho LeJeune	Town of Lake Arthur		X
Mayor Mike Pierroti	Town of Elton	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Parish Administrator	X	
Alex Guillory	Engineer	X	
Tony Hulsey	Advisory Board Member	X	
Senator Jerry Theunissen	EDC Advisory Board		X
Zach Hager, Guest	Entergy	X	
Linda LeBlanc, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Jeanne Boudreaux	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
D'Arcy Knight	Press	X	
Cesilee Oliver	Guest	X	
Jared Trahan	Guest	X	

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 Will Hetzel and passed unanimously to approve the presented agenda.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of April 9, 2025, as presented.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the financials for March and April 2025, as presented.

Old Business: Will Hetzel reported there were 60 plus applicants for the director's position and search committee narrowed it down to 6 candidates to interview. Will then introduced Cesilee Oliver as the search committee's recommendation for the director's position. Cesilee took the floor to share her personal background and professional experiences.

A motion was made by Will Hetzel, seconded by Ronnie Petree, and passed unanimously to approve the hiring of Cesilee Oliver as the Jeff Davis Economic Development Director with the beginning annual salary of \$70,000 with future consideration of increases based on performances plus benefits.

A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to withdraw any Jeff Davis Economic Development action taken in regard to the EV charging stations.

New Business: It was moved by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to appoint Kendal Henry as the Jeff Davis Economic Development representative to the One Acadiana Board, and to have Cesilee Oliver attend the meetings with her so that eventually Cesilee would be the Jeff Davis Economic Development's representative.

It was moved by Skip Broussard, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the ITEP Committee with the members being the mayor of each municipality of the parish to serve if the development is within their city limits, Greg Patterson to represent the School Board, Steve Eastman for the Policy Jury, and Sheriff Kyle Miers for the Sheriff's Department.

Ronnie Petree introduced Mayor Mike Pierotti to the Board.

Kendal Henry reported Victor Leotta with Leotta Selection and Design had recently held a workshop at Bayou Rum to discuss the strategic site planning and readiness for locations within the parish and will compile a report to present at a later date.

Attending the Policy Jury the evening of May 14 has been postponed until another time.

Jeanne Boudreaux was compiling land pieces to create a catalog of available sites to have on hand.

Potential Projects:

Plant to looking to locate in Lacassine on frontage road

Working with LAFA and LED for another site in Lacassine

Biomass to green hydrogen RNG Project

Working on retail site and will get with Mayor Guinn to discuss

Working on RFP in Lacassine area

Will met with local gas station/truck stop type business about limited available land along I-10

Ben Boudreaux discussed an economic development district in Lacassine and the use of revenue from the tax, zoning and infrastructure, GIS, and offer of office space and resources, tax abatements and millage rates, and the Lacassine water plant Phase 1 plans submitted to state with pending approval in Baton Rouge.

Mayor Guinn stated it was critical to revamp, update and keep current GIS. He discussed the planning of economic districts in Jennings and potential funding from Baton Rouge for new projects in Jennings.

A motion was made by Skip Broussard, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to adopt the employment contract for Cesilee Oliver.

Announcements:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at First Guaranty Bank.
- Ethics Financial Disclosure Reports Due May 15, 2025.

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

