

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

**Wednesday, August 13, 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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Standing for</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dr. Shane Fontenot	Jennings	X	
Ed Orgeron	Jennings	X	
Ronnie Petree	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	
Greg Marcantel	CPA	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings	X	
Cesilee Oliver	EDC Director	X	
Mayor Kark Arceneaux	Town of Welsh	X	
Mayor Poncho LeJeune	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Parish Administrator	X	
Tony Hulsey	Advisory Board Member	X	
Senator Jerry Theunissen	EDC Advisory Board	X	
Jeanne Boudreaux	Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce	X	
Zach Hager, Guest	Entergy	X	
Linda LeBlanc, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Nikki Trahan	CPA Office	X	
Sarah Werner	Langley, Williams and Company	X	
Robbie Dyer	Office of the Governor – Rural Development	X	
Doris Maricle	American Press	X	
D’Arcy Knight	Press	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.

Each guest present introduced themselves.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of June 11, 17 and July 9, 2025, as presented.

Sarah Werner presented a compilation report performed by Langley, Williams and Company for the fiscal year 2025 with no findings. A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fonteneot, seconded by Skip Broussard, and passed unanimously to accept the 2025 Compilation Reports prepared by Langley, Williams and Company.

**Approval of Financials:** A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the financial reports for May and June 2025.

**Old Business:** Welsh Mayor Karl Arceneaux reported the EV Charger stations had been installed behind Welsh City Hall. Linda LeBlanc reported a reimbursement request had been submitted to DEQ for the charger stations with payment pending approval.

**New Business:** EDC Director Cesilee Oliver presented an outline of her communications with stakeholders and potential clients, the meetings she has attended, grants she applied for, and projects/RFP's she had been working on.

A request for a zoning change through the Police Jury to locate an event center in an agricultural/residential zone was discussed. It was decided to remain neutral and accept the actions of the Police Jury. Mayor Arceneaux stated the extension of the service road on the south side of I-10 would soon be completed, the gas station on the north side of I-10 will open soon, and the Cajun Tales restaurant has sold and will be a Mexican restaurant. Senator Theunissen stated he and Ronnie had met with Senator Cassidy and discussed the importance of the new farm bill in our farming communities. Mayor Poncho LeJeune stated the new Tiger Mart was opening and Lake Arthur has a 2.2 million water project starting soon with more to come. Will Hetzel stated Gabe Fontenot opened a new business "Hunt Repellent" in Elton. Jeanne Boudreaux invited everyone to attend the ribbon cutting of the Chamber's new location on August 21. Skip Broussard suggested sending a monthly calendar of meetings that EDC members should attend. Carter Prejean reported the Stearman event is October 4 and the Fall Flea Fest on November 1. Kendal Henry reported that Ice Industries will be having a grand opening October 14. Ronnie Petree suggested connecting with potential investors for industries in JDP. Mayor Henry Guinn discussed the need for climate control warehouses for possible short-term rentals for LNG projects. Mayor Guinn also discussed expansion of roads around ShopRite, Hebert's and Burger King.

**Announcements:**

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at First Guaranty Bank.
- Ethics Online Training needs to be completed by December 31, 2025.

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