

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

Wednesday, September 10, 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
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	
Richard Arceneaux	Attorney	X	
Greg Marcantel	CPA	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings	X	
Cesilee Oliver	EDC Director	X	
Mayor Poncho LeJeune	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Parish Administrator	X	
Tony Hulsey	Advisory Board Member	X	
Representative Troy Romero	Guest	X	
Jeanne Boudreaux	Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce	X	
Gebe Fontenot, Guest	Hunt Repellant	X	
Linda LeBlanc, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Nikki Trahan	CPA Office	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 Skip Broussard led the pledge.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Skip Broussard, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025, as presented.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed

unanimously to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025, as presented.

Gabriel Fontenot, Elton native and owner of Hunt Repellent, was the guest speaker who told of the start of his company through the Business Incubator program in the SEED Center for developing an insect repellent spray and lotion that does not contain deet. His company's distribution center is located in the old Dollar General building in Elton.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the financial reports for July 2025.

New Business: It was decided to invite Exxon/Mobil representatives to the next meeting to provide an educational presentation on the benefits of CO2 projects.

A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Skip Broussard, and passed unanimously to approve an amendment to the 2025 Budget. The amendments include a revenue increase due to the recent approval of landfill funds for Jeff Davis Economic Development and an increase to payroll and payroll related expenses.

A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve a resolution for Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission to join Municipal Retirement Employees' Retirement System Plan B.

EDC Director Cesilee Oliver reported she is working on finding a location for Project Marsh, a company that would employ 60 employees, and working on Project Fuel to locate in the Lacassine area. She stated she had submitted a RFP for a \$70 million project that needed 20 to 30 acres and would employ 100 in the Lacassine or Jennings area, as well as continuing to work on retail projects and investments with different options for Jeff Davis Parish. Cesilee announced there is now a 170-acre certified site on Hwy 395 south of I-10 at the Roanoke exit.

Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux reported that 99.9% of the rural or unincorporated areas within the parish are zoned Agriculture and would need to be re-zoned for any future business that would locate in that area. A discussion ensued on how to overcome the challenge of zoning changes for new commercial growth in the parish.

Representative Troy Romero was present and invited all to the Legislative Roadshow at the Seed Center on September 23rd to hear achievements and updates from area legislators.

Announcements:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, October 8, 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 Skip Broussard, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.