

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

Wednesday, November 12, 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 – Resigned 11.12.2025		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	
Mayor Karl Arceneaux	Town of Welsh	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Parish Administrator	X	
Gerald Theunissen	Advisory Board Member	X	
Tony Hulsey	Advisory Board Member		X
Lana Sonnier Venable, Exxon/Mobil	Guest	X	
Jeanne Boudreaux	Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce		X
Alex Guillory	Guest	X	
Zach Hager, Entergy	Guest		X
Linda LeBlanc, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Nikki Trahan	CPA Office		X
Steve Broussard	Guest	X	
Doris Maricle	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 Carter Prejean led the pledge.

Kemdal Henry announced that Board Member Chrystal Breaux representing the Police Jury, resigned from the Economic Development Board as of today.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of November 12, 2025, as presented.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of October 8, 2025, as presented.

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

New Business: Aypa representatives were unable to attend the meeting to speak on their "Battery Project".

The Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission 2026 Budget and the 2025 Budget Amendments were presented.

EDC Director Cesilee Oliver reported she had attended the Police Jury meeting to discuss the need for rezoning certified properties to be light industrial. She had met with T. O. Allen landowners about rezoning their property and that the rezoning mission was moving forward. Cesilee reported she had attended the new Coushatta groundbreaking ceremony, ribbon cutting events for Old River and Ochsner's Infusion Center, Chamber Golf Scramble, and the Tourist Commission's Fall Fest, LED's Fast Site workshop which was for funding opportunities. She informed the Board that economic development has slowed due to the federal shutdown.

Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux reported he had worked with Cesilee on rezoning efforts, stated Representative Romero was able to ensure funding was still in place for the Lacassine Water Project due to the delay in the project, and worked with Meyers and Associates on LED's Fast Site program relating to the water project. Ben stated since the Landfill had increased the revenue for Economic Development, the Police Jury would increase their contributions and suggested the other entities consider doing the same. Discussion was held relating to the reasons why there was a delay of the Lacassine project. Ben informed the Board that some of the boards under the Police Jury will start having term limits.

Lake Arthur Mayor Poncho Lejeune reported O'Reilly's permit was approved and construction should start soon.

Welsh Mayor Karl Arceneaux reported the new truck stop had opened and in two months the old Cajun Tales restaurant would open as a Mexican restaurant.

Announcements:

- Clerk of Court Richard Arceneaux reminded everyone of the upcoming election on November 15
- Chamber Director Jeanne Boudreaux extended an invitation to the Chamber's Christmas social on December 8 and the Legislative Breakfast on February 10.
- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at First Guaranty Bank.
- Ethics Online Training needs to be completed by December 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Skip Broussard, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.