

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

**Wednesday, December 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	
	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	
Mayor Karl Arceneaux	Town of Welsh		X
Ben Boudreaux	Parish Administrator	X	
Gerald Theunissen	Advisory Board Member	X	
Tony Hulsey	Advisory Board Member	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	
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.

**Public Comments:** Ronnie Petree announced that Representative Troy Romero had resigned and would be taking on a new government position which details would be provided in the near future.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda of December 10, 2025, as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of October 8, 2025, as presented.

**Approval of Financials:** No financial reports were available.

**Old Business:** A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to adopt the Jeff Davis Economic Parish Development Commission 2026 Budget and the 2025 Budget Amendments.

**New Business:** A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Skip Broussard, and passed unanimously to table action on setting dates of Board Member terms and the election of officers until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Skip Broussard, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the 2026 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission and Jefferson Davis Parish Landfill Commission.

A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to approve the 2026 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission and Jefferson Davis Parish Tourist Commission.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Ed Orgeron, and passed unanimously to approve the Engagement Agreement with Langley, Williams & Company to prepare and review financial statements for period ending December 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Beth Daigle, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the Engagement Agreement with Langley, Williams & Company to apply agreed upon procedures for period ending December 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to approve the Engagement Agreement with Gregory N. Marcantel, CPA..

A motion was made by Will Hetzel, seconded by Ronnie Petree, and passed unanimously to approve the amended policy manual as presented.

EDC Director Cesilee Oliver reported she had attended the Police Jury Agenda 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 as well as reaching out to each Police Juror. Cesilee encouraged everyone to attend the Policy Jury meeting December 10 to show support in rezoning certified sites. Cesilee reported she had met with local business owners on expansion projects and had worked on the LED's Fast Site application which was for funding opportunities for the Lacassine water project. She reported she was working on the DC Mardi Gras plans which would be in January. Cesilee informed the Board that economic development has slowed due to the federal shutdown but was wrapping up projects for year end.

Parish Administrator Ben Boudreaux reported he has plans on attending the water board meetings and stated he appreciated the EDC Board attending Police Jury meeting showing interest and support. Ben stated a long range plan was to consolidate boards such as fire, water, and drainage boards, but may get complicated with the various millages for the individual boards.

Lake Arthur Mayor Poncho LeJeune reported there was a major water project, DOTD will resurface Hwy 26 to Jennings, and O'Reilly's permit was approved with construction should start soon.

Senator Jerry Theunissen reported Chennault was awarded \$20 million dollars to build another paint hanger and there will be an air show in the fall with the Blue Angels to be the main attraction.

Chamber Director Jeanne Boudreaux stated the Chamber's Holiday Social was a success and the Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 10, 2026 at the Jennings SOWELA campus.

Announcements:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at First Guaranty Bank.
- Ethics Online Training needs to be completed by December 31, 2025.

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

