

**Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission
Minutes of Meeting
June 10, 2025**

Name	Representing	Present	Absent
Sheila Chapman, Chairman	Lake Arthur	X	
Ronnie Petree	At Large		X
Kori Myers	At Large	X	
Shelby LaFosse	Welsh	X	
Jeremy Doucet	Jennings	X	
Austin Bertrand	Elton	X	
Kayla Doga	Hotel	X	
Landon Daigle	Coushatta		X
Greg Marcantel, CPA		X	
Nikki Trahan			X
Carter Prejean		X	
Macey Guidry Cormier		X	
Linda LeBlanc		X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	Jennings		X
Poncho LeJeune	Lake Arthur	X	
Kaylee Bryant		X	
Darcy Knight	Daily News	X	

Call to Order: Chairman Sheila Chapman called the meeting to order and led the prayer. Austin Bertrand led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Austin Bertrand, seconded by Jeremy Doucet, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda for June 10, 2025.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Jeremy Doucet, seconded by Kori Myers, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of May 13, 2025, as presented.

Financial Report: The April 2025 financial report was not available to present.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business: Carter Prejean reported she was working on updating the current employee policy manual. The main changes are to not include Economic Development and Chamber in the policy, add holidays, and change the authority to travel section. She will email the updated policy manual

to the Tourist Commission Board. Also, she is creating a separate policy for the Gator Chateau employees.

New Business: Greg Marcantel presented and reviewed amendments to the 2024-2025 Budget and the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget. A special meeting has been scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, to adopt the amendments for the 2024-2025 Budget and to adopt the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget.

It was moved by Kori Myers, seconded by Austin Bertrand, and passed unanimously to remove Creed Romano and Randy Whetstine as credit card holders and to authorize Carter Prejean and Macey Cormier as the new credit card holders for Jeff Davis Tourist Commission.

It was moved by Kori Myers, seconded by Austin Bertrand, and passed unanimously to authorize Sheila Chapman, Kori Meyers, Kayla Doga, Ronnie Petree and Carter Prejean as bank account signers for Jeff Davis Tourist Commission.

It was moved by Jeremy Doucet, seconded by Austin Bertrand, and passed unanimously to approve the engagement agreement between Gregory N. Marcantel, CPA and Jeff Davis Tourist Commission for year ending June 30, 2026.

It was moved by Jeremy Doucet, seconded by Kayla Doga, and passed unanimously to approve the engagement agreements between Langly, Williams & Company, LLC and Jeff Davis Tourist Commission for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for the annual audit.

Greg Marcantel presented the 2025-2026 Joint Service Agreement between the City of Jennings and Jeff Davis Tourist Commission for review. The agreement will be placed on the agenda for approval at the special meeting.

Visitor Count :

	April 2025	May 2025
Visitors	5,182	5,308
Billboard	808	987
Nights spent in LA	3,227	3,841

Gator Chateau Sales:

April 2024	16,992.00	May 2024	15,624.00
April 2025	33,323.15	May 2025	31,009.68

The current Gator Chateau rates for field trips and groups of 10 or more individuals were discussed and the difference between the free attraction experience and a paid presentation experience was explained. It was also explained when a gator is brought to an offsite location extra costs are occurred such as travel and docent pay. The matter was tabled until more information could be presented.

Sales Tax Report: The sales tax collections for May 2025 paid in June, 2025 were \$15,586.82.

Marketing/Communications Director's report:

Macey Cormier reported the following:

- Reviewed social media stats from Facebook, Instagram, and Tiktok with views from 18.8 thousand to 391,801 thousand views
- Finished the promotion of promoting a “Crawfish Crawl” with focus on the 8 local restaurants and boil and go businesses that participated.
- Created a linkedin and Tiktok for Visit Jeff Davis Parish to increase visibility on other social media platforms.
- Attending parish events taking pictures and posting on social media.

Director’s Report:

Carter Prejean presented a power point highlighting parish events and upcoming plans. She stated she had attended the opening game of the Lake Charles Gators baseball team along with JDP Tourism team that brought a baby gator to promote Gator Chateau. Carter also met with Lake Arthur officials for the Freedom Festival scheduled for June 28 as well as meeting with a Jennings Festival representative for the Jennings Stars and Stripes scheduled for July 4. She spoke at the Welsh Rotary Club meeting, attended a Zigler event, Bayou Rum grand opening for the cocktail lounge, a “Get Out & Fish” event hosted by Wildlife & Fisheries at the I-10 Park as well as the alligator feeding and jam session at the Chateau. Pictures were taken at each event and posted on social media to promote parish tourism.

Announcements:

- A Special Tourist Commission meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 24, 2025, at the Tourist Commission Administration office.
- The regular Tourist Commission meeting will at noon on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at the Tourist Commission Administration office.
- Ethics Online Training to be completed by December 31, 2025.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Jeremy Doucet, seconded by Shelby LaFosse, and passed unanimously to adjourn.

