



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

Wednesday, March 19, 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
CEO/President	Jeff Davis Economic Development		X
Mike Heinen	J.D. Tourist Commission	X	
Beau Hearod	Jennings	X	
Dr. Shane Fontenot	Jennings	X	
Ronnie Petree, Chairman	Welsh	X	
Carter Prejean	Jennings	X	
Rick Arceneaux	Attorney	X	
Greg Marcantel	CPA	X	
Mayor Henry Guinn	City of Jennings	X	
Mayor Kark Arceneaux	Town of Welsh	X	
Mayor Poncho LeJeune	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Kendal Henry	Police Jury	X	
Will Hetzel	Police Jury	X	
Chrystal Breaux	Police Jury	X	
Beth Daigle	Town of Lake Arthur	X	
Tony Hulse	Advisory Board Member	X	
Senator Jerry Theunissen	EDC Advisory Board		X
Pat Hanley	EDC Advisory Board		X
Jim Wright	EDC Advisory Board		X
Zach Hager, Guest	Entergy		
Megan Duhon, Guest	One Acadiana		X
Linda LeBlanc, Facilitator	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Macey Guidry	Jeff Davis Economic Development	X	
Mike Heinen	Past EDC Board Member	X	
Judy Petry	Past EDC Board Member	X	
Ben Boudreaux	Jeff Davis Parish Administrator	X	
Roger Mallett	Guest	X	
Skip Broussard	Guest	X	
Jeanne Boudreaux	Guest	X	
D'Arcy Knight	Press	X	
Doris Maricle	Press	X	

New Board Members Chrystal Breaux, Beth Daigle, Kendal Henry, and Will Hetzel were sworn in by Richard Arceneaux.

Call to Order: Chairman Ronnie Petree called the meeting to order.

Chairman Ronnie Petree recognized past Board Members Marilyn Watkins, Judy Petry, Mike Heinen and Tony Hulsey for their commitment to Jeff Davis Parish by serving as Board Members on the Jeff Davis Economic Development Commission.

Prayer and Pledge: Chairman Ronnie Petree led the prayer, and Mike Heinen led the pledge.

Each Board Member introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot and passed unanimously to approve the presented agenda.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Dr. Shane Fontenot, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025, as presented.

Approval of Financials: A motion was made by Kendal Henry, seconded by Chrystal Breaux, and passed unanimously to approve the financials for January 2025, as presented.

New Business: It was moved by Beau Hearod, seconded by Beth Daigle, and passed unanimously to allow a budget amendment for the allowance of a position of an interim assistant.

Discussion was held pertaining to the meeting dates and times. No vote was taken but all agreed to keep meeting at noon on the second Wednesday of each month for regular meetings.

Public Comments: Ben Boudreaux addressed the Board stating it was important for EDC to keep in communication with the governing bodies to ensure initiatives are inline. Ben asked for assistance with getting information to continue the Silicone Ranch project, assistance with notifying stakeholders about inventory tax, stated the need for road sales tax, needed research assistance to build a sports complex, discussed the need for an active industrial Development Board that could offer incentives for businesses. Ben also asked to prioritize the posting for the director's position and to call for an election of officers today. Ronnie Petree reminded all that even though the Board was made up of representatives from different entities, the Board serves all of Jeff Davis Parish. Mike Heinen stated he was thankful for being allowed to serve on the Board and thanked the Board members for saying yes to serve on the board. Judy Petry stated she echoed Mike's comments and was happy to see young members serving on the Board.

Ronnie Petree stated the amended charter had been approved by each entity, signed and was now in effect.

It was decided the nominations for the ninth board member be turned into Ronnie Petree by 5:00pm Monday, March 24, 2025, and a special meeting would be called for the appointment.

Ronnie Petree stated the presented the director's job description had been reviewed and approved. The retail position would be hired after the director was hired. The delay for posting the director's position was due to clarification as to which entity would hire and pay the director, and to decide on the benefits such as retirement and health insurance that would be offered and what the employer costs would be. A probationary period may need to be in place to obtain health or retirement options. A salary range needed to be addressed.

Beth Daigle left the meeting at 12:40pm.

Ronnie Petree recommended Kendal Henry serve on the Search Committee and Carter Prejean prepare an ad. Ronnie would send out an email with a committee outline.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Beau Hearod, and passed unanimously to set a budget of \$6,000 for the search committee budget.

A motion was made by Dr. Shane Fontenot, seconded by Carter Prejean, and passed unanimously to pay \$750.00 for the SWAMP STOL Event sponsorship.

Ronnie Petree informed the Board of a potential business to locate in Jeff Davis Parish that would be a 90,000 square foot main distribution center with 60 employees, 7 middle management people, and 8 upper management. Ronnie is continuing to work on submitting RFP's to bring business in the parish.

Dr. Shane Fontenot left the meeting at 1:09pm.

Ronnie Petree asked that Kendal Henry and Carter Prejean work on setting up a Commissioner's Retreat. Will Hetzel will work on updating a policy handbook and include an evaluation system. Carter Prejean will assist with output. Jeanne Boudreaux will assist in creating a scorecard.

Ronnie Petree opened the floor for selection of a Secretary/Treasurer since there is a vacancy. After discussion it was decided to wait until the ninth Board Member was in place.

Announcements:

- Early Voting was underway.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for noon, Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at First Guaranty Bank.

A motion was made by Beau Hearod, seconded by Will Hetzel, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

I, Ronnie Petree, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development Commission on March 19, 2025.

Ronnie Petree, Chairman

