

Jennings, Louisiana  
February 19, 2025

The Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury met in a Regular Session on the above date, in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Sidney Briscoe Building located at 304 North State Street, Jennings, LA., at 5:00 P.M.

The following members were present:

DONALD WOODS	District 1	WAYNE FRUGE	District 8
CHAD WOODS	District 2	DAVID LEJEUNE	District 9
MARCUS PETERSON	District 3	BYRON BULLER	District 10
KORI MYERS	District 4	BUTCH LAFARGUE	District 11
TIM MCKNIGHT	District 5	OWEN CORMIER	District 12
MELVIN ADAMS	District 6	BILL LABOUE	District 13
STEVE EASTMAN	District 7		

BEN BOUDREAUX, Administrator; LANCE PERSON, Legal Counsel

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Eastman. Mrs. Gary gave the Invocation and Mr. LeJeune led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brian McCain of Gragson, Casiday & Guillory, LLP, presented the FY2023 Audit, reviewing major funds. There was one (1) finding, which was late filing of the audit.

Mrs. Kelly George with DCMC presented a status report on all ARPA, HMGP, and CDBG projects. Several are under active review with FEMA and are nearing final completion. Additionally, the Police Jury Hazard Mitigation Plan expires 4/5/28. The Police Jury will need to submit a grant request to update the plan.

Representatives John Melanson and Gary Porche with Porche May presented preliminary plans on the Hazard Mitigation Safe Room project.

Mr. LaFargue reported the Finance Committee meeting was held on February 17, 2025, at 7:00 A.M. All bills were reviewed and declared in order with the Committee recommending approval.

It was moved by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. LaBouve, and carried, to pay the following bills, to wit:

• GENERAL FUND	\$ 208,279.61
• COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	1,094.73
• 911	351.00
• CRIMINAL COURT	16,600.00
• OPIOID ABATEMENT	31,674.88
• COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE	10,614.73
• SPECIAL REVENUE	17,959.99
• SECTION 8	984.00
• PARISH ROAD	0.00
• SUB ROAD DISTRICT #1	9,568.24
• SPECIAL WARD, ROAD & BRIDGE	39,908.58
• ROAD SALES TAX DISTRICT #1	17,575.28
• REGIONAL CONSOLIDATED JAIL	56,435.44
• FIRE DISTRICT #1	1,542.09
• FIRE DISTRICT #2	5,410.33
• FIRE DISTRICT #3	11,841.91
• FIRE DISTRICT #4	21,030.36
• FIRE DISTRICT #5	4,985.66
• FIRE DISTRICT #6	4,151.42
• FIRE DISTRICT #7	0.00

Additionally, it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve an additional cost of \$9,000.00 for the Courthouse Bathroom Renovation project to replace the carpet and extend the receptionist counter to be paid with Courthouse funds.

Mr. LaFargue made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fruge, and carried, to accept the recommendation of the committee.

The Finance Committee recommends authorizing the payment of an invoice in the amount of \$63,956.11 to Ochsner Health for a jail inmate's healthcare to be paid with Regional Jail funds.

It was moved by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. Peterson, with Mr. Chad Woods abstaining from the matter, to accept the Committee's recommendation.

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to reimburse the permit/inspection fees in the amount of \$863.25, which is the Police Jury's share, to Fire District No. 3 for the Lacassine Station addition.

The motion was made by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. LaBouve, and carried, to accept the recommendation of the Committee.

Further, the Finance Committee recommends paying \$4,000.00 in postage for the Registrar of Voters' office for election mailouts.

Mr. LaFargue made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cormier, and carried, to accept the Committee's recommendation.

The Finance Committee recommends approving the Annual Subscription fee in the amount of \$5,834.43 to CentralSquare for the Permit Software.

The motion was made by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Ms. Myers, and carried, to accept the recommendation of the Committee.

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the payment of goSTW Annual Software Support for the Section 8 Software in the amount of \$1,500.00 to be paid with Section 8 funds.

Mr. LaFargue made the motion, seconded by Ms. Myers, and carried, to accept the Committee's recommendation.

Additionally, the Finance Committee recommends approving a request from Tiger Correctional Services for an increase in jail feeding costs as presented.

It was moved by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. Fruge, and carried, to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation.

The Finance Committee recommends investing excess funds as presented in LAMP. (LA Asset Management Pool)

The motion was made by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. Chad Woods, and carried, to accept the recommendation of the Committee.

Also, it is the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve entering into a 5-Year Base Maintenance Contract with Cornerstone for the jail to be paid with Regional Jail funds.

It was moved by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Ms. Myers, and carried, to accept the recommendation as stated.

Finally, the Finance Committee recommends accepting the Employee pay increases as presented by the Administrator.

Mr. LaFargue made the motion, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to accept the Committee's recommendation.

Let the record reflect that the Finance Committee reviewed budget-to-actual comparisons on all funds as required.

It was moved by Mr. McKnight, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and carried, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 15, 2025, as written and submitted.

Mr. Fruge made the motion, seconded by Mr. LaBouve, and carried, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 17, 2025, as written and submitted.

The motion was made by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. Cormier, and carried, to approve a Refund of Deposit in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Key Operating Company for the M Santacoloma Well No. 001, which has been plugged and abandoned.

Mr. Cormier made the motion, seconded by Mr. LaBouve, and carried, to approve a price increase of \$8.00 per month for the initial trash receptacle in connection with Waste Connection Bayou, Inc., trash pickup service, effective the next billing cycle.

It was moved by Mr. Chad Woods, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to approve payment of Invoice 2024-JD-004 in the amount of \$29,071.36 to Beazley Long Shelter Design for the Animal Shelter as recommended by DCMC.

The motion was made by Mr. LaBouve, seconded by Mr. LaFargue, and carried, to approve Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$30,915.00 to Shannon Smith Construction in connection with Fire District No. 3 Lacassine Station Addition.

Mr. LaBouve made the motion, seconded by Mr. LeJeune, and carried, to approve the issuance of a Special Events Permit for Gypsy MC for the Run to the Bayou Fundraiser to benefit the Southwest Louisiana Veteran's Home which will be held at the Lacassine Community Center on Friday, March 21, 2025; Saturday, March 22, 2025; and from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM for cleanup on Sunday, March 23, 2025.

It was moved by Mr. Fruge, seconded by Mr. LeJeune, and carried, to approve the minor D. J. Heinen Subdivision located on Dama Landry Road, Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 3 West.

The motion was made by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. LaBouve, and carried, to approve the minor Justin Hammer Subdivision located on Gro Racca Road, Section 12, Township 9 South, Range 6 West.

Mr. Buller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fruge, and carried, to adopt the following Resolution, to-wit:

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission is composed of parish governing bodies; and

**WHEREAS,** the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission has amended its charter to authorize the addition of the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury is interested in becoming a governing body of the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH POLICE JURY, acting in duly convened session on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, that Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury shall become a governing body of the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission according to its amended charter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury hereby authorizes the President, J. Steven Eastman, to sign any and all necessary documents required.

It was moved by Mr. Fruge, seconded by Mr. LeJeune, and carried, to reappoint Robbie Sarver to the Jeff Davis Water District No. 4 board effective March 10, 2025, with a term to expire March 10, 2029.

Mr. Peterson made the motion, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to approve the purchase of 3,000 Tons Gravel for various roads in the Jennings area to be paid for with Division One funds.

The motion was made by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Fruge, and carried, to approve the purchase of 1,000 Tons Gravel for various roads in the Elton area to be paid with Division Two funds.

It was moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Mr. LaFargue, and carried, to approve the purchase 1,850 Tons Gravel for various roads in the Fenton area to be paid with Division Two-One funds.

Mr. LaBouve made the motion, seconded by Mr. LaFargue, and carried, to approve the purchase of 4,200 Tons Gravel for various roads and one (1) 42' x 48" metal arched pipe for David Road at a cost of \$6,627.18 to be paid with Division Three funds.

The motion was made by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and carried, to ratify the action of the Agenda Committee in adopting the following Resolution, to-wit:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Tim McKnight, Police Juror, is currently serving his 6<sup>th</sup> year in office representing District 5 of Jefferson Davis Parish, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. McKnight currently serves as chairman of the Louisiana Recreational Trails Committee, Legislative Committee, Mosquito Abatement Committee, Office of Emergency Preparedness Committee, Proposal Review Committee, and Technology Committee and serves on various other committees of the Police Jury, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. McKnight is employed by Acadian Ambulance and is a resident of Jennings, Louisiana, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. McKnight has announced his candidacy for Executive Board Member At Large of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana. His experience as a government servant, as well as his excellent working relationship with his colleagues makes him an ideal candidate for this position.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH POLICE JURY, acting in duly convened session on this 5th day of February, 2025, and to be ratified on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, voted to wholeheartedly endorse the candidacy of Mr. Tim McKnight for the position of Executive Board Member At Large of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be sent to all other Louisiana Parishes humbly requesting that they support and endorse Mr. Tim McKnight as a candidate for Executive Board Member At Large of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

It was moved by Mr. LaBouve, seconded by Mr. LaFargue, and carried, to move forward with the condemnation process of the adjudicated home located at 18386 Moreau Road on property owned by Steve Arceneaux Etal., Assessment 800014700.

Mr. Peterson made the motion, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Airport Commission Board for the Police Jury to lend one hundred (100) folding chairs for an event to be held on April 10, and April 11, 2025.

It was moved by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to amend the original motion was amended to add tables to the CEA contingent on availability.

The motion was made by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. LaFargue, and carried, to accept the recommendation of Bluewing Civil Consulting for Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$626,824.12 to R. E. Heidt in connection with the Farm Supply Road Improvement project.

It was moved by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to approve Change Order No. 2 in connection with the Farm Supply Road Improvement project.

Mr. LaBouve made the motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and carried, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Jennings for the Jennings Mardi Gras Festival to be held in the Glenn Daigle Arena on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The event is open to the public; however, the following stipulations will be included in the CEA: No floats are allowed in the arena; Parking shall be in the fair area and health unit area; No parking is allowed in the William E. Broussard Multipurpose Building parking lot or LSU AgCenter parking lot, this parking space is reserved for a wedding event. There will be live music in the arena after the parade. The City of Jennings is responsible for providing security and for set up, clean up and tear down.

The motion was made by Mr. LaFargue, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and carried, to recognize the parish employees who worked diligently during the snowstorm to assist DOTD with clearing state highways and clearing parish roads. President Eastman requested the news reporters state this in the newspaper.

It was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Fruge, and carried, to approve an Alcohol Permit for Franklin Austin Bertrand in connection with the opening of Bon's Restaurant LLC dba One Eyed Jacks located at 1010 Main Street Suite B, Elton, LA.

Mr. LaFargue made the motion, seconded by Mr. LaBouve, and carried, to authorize the President to send a Letter to Congressman Clay Higgins in support of the Town of Welsh to construct a Frontage Road from Hwy 99 east to Joseph Street.

It was moved by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to adopt the following Resolution, to-wit:

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICE JURY OF JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH, LOUISIANA**, convened in Regular Session on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, that it does hereby approve a Multi-Jurisdictional Agreement between the six-parish CEO Consortium of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vernon Parishes, stipulating the actions, responsibilities, etc., for the services provided as a result of the funds allocated through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (July 22, 2014), Public Law 113-128.

**BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED** that the President of the Police Jury, or his designee, when appropriate, is authorized to execute all documents related thereto.

**THUS DONE AND PASSED** on the date above inscribed.

The motion was made by Mr. Chad Woods, seconded by Mr. Donald Woods, and carried, to approve a quote in the amount of \$8,000.00 to Hayes House Movers & Leveling for a structure on Dugas Road.

Mr. McKnight made the motion, seconded by Mr. LaFargue, and carried, to adopt the following Resolution, to-wit:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Office of Community Development is making available to parish governments thru the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for the 2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year Grant Program, funds for needed projects and equipment to enhance growth and benefit the lives of their citizens; and



**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson Davis Police Jury has a pressing need to maintain and upgrade road infrastructure in the parish and,

**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury does not have sufficient funds to purchase a Dump Truck to maintain and upgrade road infrastructure.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH POLICE JURY, acting in duly convened session at the Regular Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, that a grant application be submitted under the 2024 -2025 LGAP Grant Program to apply for funds up to the allocated parish amount of \$100,000.00 to purchase a Dump Truck to maintain and upgrade road infrastructure.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury hereby authorizes the President, J. Steven Eastman, to sign all documents regarding the application.

#### President's Report

President Eastman informed everyone of a meeting with GOHSEP at the PJ Convention. The meeting was very informative and GOHSEP is making strides to get funds out quicker.

GOHSEP requested they be notified whenever there is a parade held in the parish.

Mr. Boudreaux and President Eastman met with Secretary Nelson to obtain information of the Inventory Tax proposal.

President Eastman stated Amendment No. 2 on the March 29, 2025 ballot needs to pass.

Everyone is invited to the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Pary for Vernon Meyer on March 5, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

President Eastman reminded everyone about the Welcome Reception for the Administrator to be held at Bayou Rum on March 6, 2025.

#### Administrator's Report

Mr. Boudreaux gave the following updates:

- The Animal Shelter groundbreaking was held earlier today.
- Additionally, the Animal Shelter will need funding for maintenance. Ben held a meeting with Brennan Black at the PJ Convention.
- Representative Dewith Carrier
- Investing in LAMP will be great for the parish.

- The Property and Casualty Insurance renewal is in progress; the Insurance Committee will need to be actively involved.
- Meetings were held with 2 different solar companies.
- The Rear Arena Canopy project is in progress.
- The parking lot at the William E Broussard MultiPurpose Building is used by everyone in the parish. A suggestion was made to consider a fence, chain, etc.
- Rhoda Richard was recognized for her years of service and great work. Carlee Taylor will be here replacement.

#### Engineer's Report

None.

#### Committee Reports

Ms. Myers, Ordinance Committee Chairman reported on a Committee meeting held with the Committee approving many changes and recommending approval.

It was moved by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. McKnight, and carried, to place the Ordinances on the next agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, it was moved by Mr. Donald Woods, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and carried, to adjourn the meeting.

/s/ J. Steven Eastman  
PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

/s/ Rebecca S. Gary  
SECRETARY

March 12, 2025  
DATE APPROVED