



MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2025 MEETING – LEDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jan-Scott Richard, COG President & Scott Mayor, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. SILENT PRAYER & PLEDGE

Mayor Richard offered a silent prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

All in attendance were introduced. All COG entities were in attendance, with the exception of the City of Carencro.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A motion was offered and seconded to approve the minutes of the last COG meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was offered and seconded to adopt the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$603.92. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- a. **DISCUSSION: Economic Development Update – Mandi Mitchell, LEDA President & CEO**
Ms. Mitchell led a discussion on the Lafayette Economic Development Authority's (LEDA) mission, ongoing initiatives, and future plans to strengthen Lafayette Parish's economy. She provided an overview of LEDA's key projects, highlighting efforts to attract new businesses, support local industry growth, and enhance workforce development. Ms. Mitchell emphasized LEDA's commitment to fostering innovation, expanding job opportunities, and promoting Lafayette's unique cultural and economic assets as competitive advantages. She also outlined upcoming strategies aimed at sustaining long-term growth and ensuring that Lafayette remains a vibrant and dynamic place to live, work, and invest.
- b. **UPDATES: State Officials / Parish Elected Officials**
 - i. **Annie Spell, Beau Beaulieu – Louisiana House of Representatives**
Ms. Boudreaux emphasized the importance of LEDA's work and offered support from the Louisiana House of Representatives through economic development centered on job

creation. They discussed the recent passage of new legislation that provided a reorganization within the Department of Transportation and Development and announced a speaking engagement at Cajun Field scheduled for September 10.

ii. **Lee Turner – Office of U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy**

Ms. Turner reported on technological advancements in Acadiana and funding secured at the federal level.

iii. **Jo Ann LeJeune – League of Women Voters**

Mrs. LeJeune announced a Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day event to be held in September

iv. **Justin Centanni – Lafayette Parish Assessor's Office**

Lafayette Parish Assessor Centanni reported that every taxation body approved millages. The aerial photography contract is expiring with expectations to renew with the same company.

v. **Tyrone Glover – Office of U.S. Representative Clay Higgins**

Mr. Glover announced that the Office of Rep. Higgins would soon release a calendar of events and a quarterly report

c. **MUNICIPALITY UPDATES**

i. **Broussard** – Mayor Ray Bourque discussed the historic tax collection of nearly \$2M in revenue, which was the most in the city's history. The city of Broussard received a \$3.7M grant from the Water Sector Program to help upgrade the city's waterworks infrastructure as part of a \$10M master plan. Mayor Bourque also highlighted the plans to construct a new pickleball venue and veterans' memorial in St Julien Park, an increase in population to approximately 17,000, and the purchase of the old Broussard Middle School site.

ii. **Carencro** –

iii. **Duson** – Mayor Johnny Thibodeaux announced the early voting location for Duson. He discussed a \$5M water enrichment project estimated to be completed mid-2026, along with the demolition of 12 of the 24 blighted properties within incorporated limits, a new drainage project, and a roundabout at Exit 92

iv. **Scott** – Mayor Richard discussed road improvement projects and their receipt of a 7-score in the CRS program. He announced the launch of Village Beats, a free concert event that he aspires to develop into an ongoing series, as well as the beginning of Phase II of Veterans' Memorial.

v. **Youngsville** – Haley Leatherwood, on behalf of Mayor Kenn Ritter, reported that \$2.7M in funds received from the Water Sector Program (WSP) were committed as well as a \$7.7M sewer expansion project. She reminded attendees of the Eat Sweet Restaurants Weeks held in Youngsville throughout the month of August, promoting the support of locally-owned eateries.

vi. **Lafayette Consolidated Government** – Christina Dayries, Chief of Staff of Mayor-President Monique Boulet's office, discussed the retirement of Fire Chief Robert Benoit and the appointment of Deputy Fire Chief John Bourgeois to serve in the interim. Regarding several projects within the Parks and Recreation Department, Dayries discussed the construction of the Heymann Park Amphitheater and the Thomas Park tennis courts. Additionally, a \$4M improvement project is set to commence at the intersection of East Broussard and Robley Drive, featuring new roundabouts, upgraded lighting, and improved

drainage infrastructure. Construction on the Johnston Street drainage project is also scheduled to begin on September 9, continuing the city's commitment to infrastructure resilience and public safety.

- vii. **Lafayette Parish School System** – Associate Superintendent Mark Rabalais updated attendees on construction taking place or soon to be at Acadiana High School, Judice Middle School, David Thibodaux, and LJ Alleman. He reminded attendees of the importance of the upcoming vote on the proposed mills renewal as well as the November 17 Gumbo Cook-Off

7. OTHER MATTERS

- a. Mayor Richard announced that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, and hosted by the City of Carencro. He thanked LEDA officials and staff for hosting the meeting. He reminded attendees to complete the sign-in sheet.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.