



**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

**MINUTES
August 9, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Special Meeting at 10:00am, Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Members Present:

Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Gene Bouillion, Port of Orange
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City
Mike Kunst, City of Vidor
Barry Burton, Commissioner Pct. 2

Members Absent:

Mayor Jimmy Sims, City of Orange
Judge Brint Carlton, Orange County

Others Present:

Alan Sanders, Attorney
Jessica Hill, Executive Director
Ida Schossow, Greater Orange Area COC
Mayor Cathy Nagel, City of Pine Forest
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services

Official Notice of the meeting detailing the time, date, place and purpose (Agenda), was posted in the Orange County Court house and Orange County Administration Building on August 4, 2016.

1. **Convene Meeting.** Vice President Burton opened the meeting at 10:00am.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Vice President Burton led the invocation, pledge and roll call.
3. **Recognize Guests.**

Ida Schossow, Greater Orange Area COC
Mayor Cathy Nagel, City of Pine Forest
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services

4. **Open the floor to members of the public or of the Board of Directors of the Governing authority for inquiries about a subject not listed on the Agenda.** Speakers shall be requested to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes or less. Specific factual information, or existing policy, may be stated in response to an inquiry. Any Deliberation or decision about the subject of **the inquirer shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the Agenda** for a subsequent Regular or Special Board Meeting.

Agenda item #4 was taken out of sequence and was revisited after item #5. Officer Hood commented on the visit from Betty Russo of the Governor's Office. He commented that the visit was very informative and that Ms. Russo would be a resource for our region moving forward. Vice President Burton reiterated Officer Hood's comments and added that Ms. Russo emphasized participation in regional programs as well as tourism.

Vice President Burton further updated the Board regarding ongoing conversations related to the 299 Loop and 105 toll road and the EDC's participation as it relates to the economic impact of such projects.

5. **Minutes for any previous Meeting(s).**

Minutes of the previous meeting were not provided. Member Bouillion motioned to table the agenda item until next meeting. Motion was seconded by Member Wallace. Motion carried.

6. **Financial matters including:**
 - (A) Audit
 - (B) Financial report
 - (C) Bills for payment
 - (D) 2017 Draft Budget

Director Hill informed the Board that the audit had not been completed. Anticipated presentation of the audit would be in September. Director Hill presented the report of bills paid, as well as a statement of current financial status. Member Stelly made a motion to approve the financial report (B & C) as presented. Motion was seconded by Vice President Burton. Motion carried.

The draft 2017 budget was presented to the Board. Member Jones made a recommendation to even out the auto allowance budget item. No action was taken on approval. An updated budget with the recommended changes will be presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

7. **Website and media campaign**

Director Hill debuted the new EDC website. The new site will host the site database, HOT Tax Application, survey links, demographics and interactive media.

8. **The Rhoman Group – Skilled Nursing Facility**

Director Hill presented a request from The Rhoman Group for letters of support from the community and elected officials. The Rhoman Group is seeking to place a skilled nursing facility in Bridge City. The investment will be \$12M and create upwards of 80 jobs.

9. **Executive Director’s Regular Report.**

Director Hill gave an update on her travel to the Southern Economic Development Council’s Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri and the one day Retail Live! Conference in Austin where she met with N3 Real Estate.

Mrs. Hill gave a detailed pipeline report on the status of industrial projects still considering properties in Orange County.

10. **Closed Meeting to Deliberate commercial or financial information that the Governmental Body has received from a business prospect that the Governmental Body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the Governmental Body and with which the Governmental Body is conducting economic development negotiations, or to Deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to such a business prospect, under Section 551.087 of the Act, regarding any current, confidential OCEDC Projects.**

The Board entered closed session at 10:46am and returned to open session at 10:58am.

No Action Taken

11. **Report by Corporation’s Attorney on matters not otherwise included in the Agenda.**

Counsel Sanders reminded the Board of our annual meeting to be conducted at the September meeting including the election of officers. He also recommended the establishment of a policy to approve new members, include an agenda item for approval of new members in future meetings and make any necessary updates to the governing documents including an interlocal agreement and voting rights.

Officer Jones made the motion to bring new members to the Board for approval of membership status and level. Officer Hood seconded and the motion passed.

12. **Set date, time and place of any presently anticipated Special Meeting to be held prior to the next Regular Meeting.**

No action

13. **Specify changes to the date, time and/or place of one or more particular Regular Session(s) if any of such factors are presently anticipated to be changed from standard Board Policy.**

Officer Hood recommended establishing the new time and place for Board meetings as follows:

Orange County Airport
2nd Monday
3:00pm

Motion was seconded by Member Stelly. Motion passed.

14. **Adjourn Meeting.**

Member Stelly motioned to adjourn. Officer Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:27am

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