



**ORANGE COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

**MINUTES**

**January 9, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 11:00am, Monday, January 9, 2017

**Members Present:**

Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst  
Dan Mohon, City of Pinehurst  
Mayor Cathy Nagel, City of Pine Forest  
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange  
Judge Brint Carlton, Orange County  
Dr. Michael Shahan, Lamar State College Orange  
Jay Trahan, City of Orange  
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies  
Ida Schossow, Greater Orange Area Chamber of  
Commerce  
Commissioner Barry Burton, Pct. 2  
Stan Mathews, Sabine River Authority

**Members Absent:**

Mike Kunst, City of Vidor  
Gene Bouillion, Port of Orange  
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City  
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange  
Mike Kunst, City of Vidor  
Carl Thibodeaux, City of West Orange  
Dr. Stephen Patterson, Orangefield ISD  
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services

**Others Present:**

Alan Sanders, Attorney (By Phone)  
Jessica Hill, Executive Director

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 January 5, 2017.

1. **Convene Meeting.** President Carlton opened the meeting at 11:03am.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Member Mohon led the invocation. Officer Hood led the pledge, followed by the roll call by President Carlton.
3. **Recognize Guests.**  
Councilwoman Angela Jordan, City of Vidor
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.

None

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

Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. Member Stelly motioned to approve the minutes. Member Trahan seconded and the motion carried.

6. **Financial matters including:**

Director Hill presented the January financial report noting that revenues were still below budgeted amounts due to membership, abatement administration and HOT Funds. Payment for abatement administration and HOT will be received soon. Also noted was the expenditures for legal and travel. Attorney Alan Sanders commented that he would review the expenditures with Mrs. Hill and take action to ensure proper allowances. The travel overrun was anticipated for the quarter due to Officer Hood's attendance at TEDC in San Antonio.

The statement of financial position was presented and Mrs. Hill updated the Board on the carryover amount that was showing on the statement. She reported that EKC would make the adjustment to clear that balance.

Member Mathews questioned the Port's portion of dues and was reminded that the Port had not rejoined the membership.

Recommended changes or concerns are only related to legal. Officer Stelly motioned to approve the financial statements. Member Mohon seconded and the motion carried.

Director Hill presented the bills for payment and expenses through January 5th. Officer Stelly motioned to approve the payment of bills. Officer Hood seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Hill updated the Board that Patillo, Brown and Hill has agreed to perform the audit in conjunction with the County's audit. The cost will be comparable to the annually budgeted amount. After this year's audit we will perform a biannual audit. Engaging Patillo, Brown & Hill will allow us to then contract with EKC to perform regular financial services.

**7. Update on the closure of emergency services at Baptist Hospital.**

Chairman Carlton updated the Board on the healthcare, economic development and residential development concerns that result from such a closure. He discussed the two paths of establishing a hospital district and what the role of the EDC and County is through this process. Member Trahan told the Board he was working on a resolution to support the establishment of a district and its placement on the ballot for public vote. Officer Stelly asked if it was appropriate to vote to approve the resolution. Officer Stelly made the motion to allow Director Hill to sign a resolution of support. Officer Hood seconded the motion. There was additional discussion regarding support from Chemical Row. Steve Aguiard has taken on the responsibility of providing information to industry and acting as liaison to the cause. The issuance of a letter of support was also advised. Director Hill will draw up a letter of support. There was further discussion by the group concerning the process of establishing and governing the district. After the discussion Chairman Carlton called for a vote on the motion to allow for a resolution of support and the motion carried.

**8. Executive Director's Regular Report.**

Mrs. Hill gave a detailed pipeline report on the status of industrial projects still considering properties in Orange County. She told the group she would be heading to Dallas to meet with Ray Garfield, owner of Garfield Public Private, a meeting set up by Allen Mann. She gave a report on the trip planned to learn more about the Liberty County hospital district and how they may be able to assist us through the process. Mrs. Hill reminded the Board of the Economic Forecast Breakfast in Beaumont and that we had purchased a table at that event. She also gave a brief update on the strategic plan and provided a handout with several focus areas for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Hill concluded with a HOT update regarding the approvals and placement on the Court's agenda later in the month.

Officer Stelly motioned to approve the report, Member Mohon seconded and the motion carried.

9. **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.**

No Action Taken

10. **Report by Corporation's Attorney on matters not otherwise included in the Agenda.**

Attorney Sanders advised that the EDC may consider forming an informal group to address the hospital situation and possibly take the lead on questions and processes developing from those discussions.

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

No action

12. **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.**

The Board was reminded that we would return to our regular schedule next month. The meeting will be held February 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

13. **Adjourn Meeting.**

Officer Burton motioned to adjourn. Member Nagel seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:42am.

**ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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