



**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

MINUTES

March 13, 2017

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 3:00pm, Monday, March 13, 2017

Members Present:

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
Commissioner Barry Burton, Pct. 2
Carl Thibodeaux, City of West Orange
Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst
Mike Kunst, City of Vidor

Members Absent:

Ida Schossow, GOACC
Dan Mohon, City of Pinehurst
Stan Mathews, Sabine River Authority
Gene Bouillion, Port of Orange
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
Dr. Stephen Patterson, Orangefield ISD
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City

Others Present:

Jessica Hill, Executive Director
Alan Sanders, Attorney

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 March 9, 2017.

1. **Convene Meeting.** President Carlton opened the meeting at 3:02 pm.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Vice President Burton led the invocation. Officer Hood led the pledge, followed by the roll call by President Carlton.
3. **Recognize Guests.**
There were no guests in attendance.
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.

Mrs. Hill notified the Board of Member Jones's mother's condition and requested prayer.

Judge Carlton announced that the County received a petition for the hospital district but there was additional information that was needed so the petition was denied. It was reported that the petitioner would go back and resubmit the petition once completed accurately. The rate was \$.18 and the territory was county wide.

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

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. Member Stelly motioned to approve the minutes with an amendment. Member Kunst was listed as absent twice. Officer Burton seconded and the motion carried.

6. **Financial matters including:**

Director Hill presented the March financial report for the quarters. She noted the legal and travel budgets still reflect overages. Budget to actuals for revenue were below projections due to Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues from the County having not yet been received as well as a PILOT payment from RFP Maintenance. Budget to actuals for expenditures is on goal with projections. The statement of financial position showed no significant change or concern.

Member Stelly motioned to approve the financial statements. Member Shahan seconded and the motion carried.

Director Hill presented the bills for payment and expenses through March 13th. Member Stelly motioned to approve the payment of bills. Member Shahan seconded and the motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action to contract with Site Location Partnership.

Director Hill presented an opportunity to contract with Site Location Partnership which would act as an additional employee to represent Orange County at trade shows. SLP would also assist with lead generation based on industry or NAICS code. SLP represents multiple entities throughout the State. Mrs. Hill will set up a presentation with SLP for members to better understand the services offered. No additional action was taken.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Board meeting frequency.

Director Hill requested to move monthly meetings to bi-monthly due to the work associated with Board Meetings. Moving to bi-monthly would allow for more time directed at lead generation. The EDC by-laws do not require monthly meetings. Communication with members to keep the majority updated on the progress was requested. The updated by-laws allows for an Executive Committee should the need arise. The bi-monthly meetings will begin in May.

Member Thibodeaux motioned to move to bi-monthly meetings with regular updates to the Board. Officer Hood seconded and the motion carried.

9. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Mrs. Hill informed the Board that it has been busy with prospects. Six additional prospects have been added to the pipeline. She notified the Board that Project Incognito was in town visiting the sites which were presented to them in Houston over Superbowl weekend. Member Sparrow, Shahan and President Carlton also commented on their favorable experiences with the prospect. The additional projects added to the pipeline were discussed.

Golden Triangle Days in Austin was discussed as a success as was Houstex. Houstex was a trade show similar to Plastec which Director Hill attended. Director Hill also reported that she was in attendance as a presenter at Community Development Institute.

She updated the Board on the status of the Regional Economic Development Initiative. The group is still functioning but it was reported that the organization is no longer housed within the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. REDI is the steering committee to the Southeast Texas Economic Development Foundation. It dissolved its relationship with the Chamber and has moved within the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission as a tenant. Commissioner Burton commented on the synergies between the two organizations.

It was also reported that Suez has been announced as the buyer of GE Water & Process Technologies.

Officer Thibodeaux motioned to approve the report. Member Kunst seconded and the motion carried.

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.**

No Action

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

Counselor Sanders apologized for not attending the last meeting. He also gave a legislative update and advised the group to follow the issues related to local entities and to notify counsel if assistance is required on any necessary matters.

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.**

The next meeting will be May 8th at 3:00pm in Vidor.

14. **Adjourn Meeting.**

Member Stelly motioned to adjourn. Member Kunst seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.

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