



**ORANGE COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

**MINUTES**

**September 25, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 3:00pm, Monday, September 25, 2017, First Financial Bank.

Members Present:

Mayor Cathy Nagel, City of Pine Forest  
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange  
Judge Brint Carlton, Orange County  
Jay Trahan, City of Orange  
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies  
Commissioner Barry Burton, Pct. 2  
Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst  
Ida Schossow, GOACC  
Dr. Michael Shahan, Lamar State College Orange  
Carl Thibodeaux, City of West Orange  
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City

Members Absent:

Stan Mathews, Sabine River Authority  
Gene Bouillion, Port of Orange  
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City  
Dr. Stephen Patterson, Orangefield ISD  
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services  
Mike Kunst, City of Vidor  
Dan Mohon, City of Pinehurst  
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange  
Dr. Pauline Hargrove, LCMCISD

Others Present:

Jessica Hill, Executive Director  
Christopher Leavins, Attorney  
Susheel Kumar, US Small Business Administration

Official Notice of the meeting detailing the time, date, place and purpose (Agenda), was posted on the Orange County Economic Development Corporation website and Orange County Administration Building on September 21, 2017.

1. **Convene Meeting.** Vice President Burton opened the meeting at 3:06 pm.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Vice President Burton led the invocation. Vice President Burton led the pledge, followed by the roll call by Vice President Burton.
3. **Recognize Guests.**  
The following guests were in attendance: Susheel Kumar, U.S. Small Business Administration.
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.

Susheel Kumar gave an overview of the SBA-DR process and the importance of registering with the agency. His explanation covered the program basics and benefits of SBA assistance. President Carlton commented on the status of debris removal and the price war underway as a result of the broad reach of Hurricane Harvey.

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

Minutes of the May meeting were reviewed. Member Stelly motioned to approve the minutes. Officer Hood seconded and the motion carried.

6. **Financial matters including:**

Director Hill presented the September financials reporting a year end net operating revenue of \$-12,962.13. Total expenditures came in under budget as did revenue resulting in the deficit. Year end liabilities and equity is \$52,478.54 which includes the opening balance equity of \$10,860 for the levee project, and the net revenue of \$-12,962.13. Member Stelly motioned to approve the financial report. VP Burton seconded, and the motion carried.

The transaction report was presented for a total payment amount of \$28,655.61. Members Stelly motioned to approve the bills for payment report. Member Thibodeaux seconded, and the motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution to approve the 2017-2018 Budget.**

The final budget for 2017-2018 was presented with a Resolution to approve. Member Thibodeaux motioned to approve the resolution to adopt the FY budget. Member Stelly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. **Discussion and possible action regarding the acceptance of OCEDC membership resignations.**

Resignations from Board Members Gene Bouillion, Port of Orange; Keith Wallace, Port of Orange and Mike Kunst, City of Vidor. Were presented to the Board. Office Hood made a motion to accept the resignations of the presented Board Members. VP Burton seconded, and the motion carried.

9. **Nomination, discussion and action appointing the 2017-2018 Board of Directors.**

Discussion was had to determine the process by which the new officers would be appointed. The EDC By Laws do not specify an order by which to appoint. The Board concluded the acting officers would advance in position with the selection of a new officer by nomination. Member Nagel made the motion to advance current officers and Officer Hood seconded. Motion carried. VP Burton made a motion to nominate Member Stelly to fill the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Member Thibodeaux seconded, and the motion carried. The following slate of officer was nominated:

President – Commissioner Barry Burton, Orange County

Vice President – Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst

Secretary/Treasurer – Jerry Jones, Bridge City

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Michael Stelly, City of West Orange

10. **Discussion and possible action regarding Tropical Storm Harvey recovery efforts.**

Member Schossow provided more information on business recovery and the event taking place at LSCO on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Discussion regarding the necessity of positive news including the story of HEB and ongoing development in spite of the storm. Director Hill commented on the business we are currently aware of that are not reopening and encouraged the Board to notify the EDC if they hear of others that may be having a difficult time recovering.

11. **Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution to reallocate \$200,000 in designated funds from the OCEDC budget for small business recovery grants.**

Director Hill requested the Board approve a reallocation of funds to administer grants for businesses impacted by Harvey. Hill provided a general overview of how she anticipated the process to work. Her recommendation is \$5000 to 40

businesses. A committee to help oversee the program was recommended. Member Thibodeaux made a motion to form a committee to oversee the administration of \$200,000 in grant funds to small businesses. Carlton seconded, and the motion carried. The following committee was nominated:

Ida Schossow, GOACC  
Stephen Lee, First Financial Bank  
Jessica Hill, OCEDC  
Jay Trahan, City of Orange  
Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst

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

Director Hill continued with the recovery discussion updating the Board on the website resources available for recovery. She also listed the businesses that have indicated they will not reopen. The Neon Cloud marketing video has been rescheduled due to the storm as well. Mrs. Hill provided the dates of recovery seminars across the region and where to find the videoed seminar hosted by Congressman Babin's Office. The Director's report followed with an update to the pipeline report and specific details about the development of LaPoint Energy. Judge Carlton commented on being in receipt of a petition to call for the election of a hospital district. VP Burton motioned to approve the report. Member Thibodeaux seconded, and the motion carried.

13. **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

14. **Discussion and possible action resulting from Closed Meeting under Agenda Item No. 13.**

No Action

15. **Discussion and possible setting of date, time and place of any presently anticipated Special Meeting to be held prior to the next Regular Meeting.**

No Action

16. **Discussion and possible action regarding possible 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.**

No Action

17. **Adjourn Meeting.**

Member Nagel motioned to adjourn. Member Stelly seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

**ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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