

orange county, texas
preserving resources :: developing the future

**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

MINUTES

September 9, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00am, Monday, September 9, 2019, Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom, 123 S 6th Street, Orange, Texas 77630

Members Present:

Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst
Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City
Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange
Ida Schossow, GOACC
David Jones, Gopher Industrial
Angela Jordan, City of Vidor
Dan Mohon, City of Pinehurst

Members Absent:

Stephen Lee, First Financial Bank
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies
John Jenrette, Rifco Ltd.
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services
Mayor Cathy Nagel, City of Pine Forest
Dr. Stephen Patterson, Orangefield ISD
Jay Trahan, City of Orange
Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Ann Galassi, Sabine River Authority
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange

Others Present:

Jessica Hill, Executive Director
Chris Leavins, Legal Counsel
Deborah Bednar, Citizen
Kelli Patin, Citizen
Brad Childs, City of Orange

Latoya Overstreet, Citizen
Kellsey Fairchild, Cook Parker

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 4, 2019.

1. **Convene Meeting.** President Hood opened the meeting at 10:00 am.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Legal Counsel Chris Leavins led the invocation and Member Viator led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Hood led roll call.
3. **Recognize Guests.** The following guests were in attendance:
Deborah Bednar, Citizen
Kelli Patin, Citizen
Brad Childs, City of Orange
Latoya Overstreet, Citizen
Kellsey Fairchild, Cook Parker
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.

Ms. Putin thanked the Board for placing the membership discussion on the agenda.
5. **Discussion and possible action regarding the 2018 Audit Report.** Agenda item #12 was taken out of order. Kellsey Fairchild of Cook Parker presented the OCEDC 2018 Audit Report with no findings or recommendations.
6. **Discussion and possible action to approve Minutes for any previous Meeting(s).**

Motion was made by Member Jordan to approve the July 1st meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Member Gauthier. Motion carried.
7. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including the financial report and bills for payment.**

Director Hill reported total revenues of \$467,355 and expenditures of \$285,983. Total net revenues for the year are \$181,372. Statement of financial position reports total assets/liabilities and equity of \$317,259 with restricted funds of

\$14,257. Officer Jones motioned to approve the report. Member Gauthier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Hill presented the bills for payment totaling \$42,491.72 for June 29th through September 5th. Member Jordan motioned to approve the bills for payment. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. **Discussion and possible action to add an additional membership level below the \$1000 Associate tier.**

Public comment was heard from citizens in attendance.

No Action

9. **Discussion and possible action to hold an OCEDC Board Meeting during evening hours.**

Public comment was heard from citizens in attendance.

No Action

10. **Discussion and possible action to adopt an OCEDC Mission Statement.**

Officer Jones motioned to approve the mission statement. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. **Nomination, discussion and action appointing the 2019-2020 OCEDC Board of Directors.**

Officer Jones motioned to approve the following slate of Directors:

President: Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst
Vice President: Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Johnny Trahan, Orange County

Member Mohon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12. **Discussion and possible action regarding the 2020 OCEDC Proposed Budget.**

Director Hill previewed the 2020 budget and make specific mention of a new quality of life video that would be funded by HOT. She also explained the two Jefferson Energy projects under abatement administration. Additional marketing and advertising expenditures were detailed as well as the addition of a new hire. Officer Jones motioned to approve the 2019-2020 budget. Member Gauthier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13. **Discussion and possible action regarding the selection of the OCEDC depository.**

Member Viator motioned to approve CommunityBank of Texas as the OCEDC depository. Member Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

14. **Discussion and possible action nominating two (2) representatives to serve on the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee.**

Mrs. Hill recommended the nomination of Keith Wallace and Jack Patel as representatives on the Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee. Member Jordan motioned to approve the nomination of Keith Wallace and Jack Patel. Member Viator seconded the motion. Motion carried.

15. **Discussion and possible action authorizing the OCEDC Executive Director to apply for Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds.**

Member Gauthier motioned to approve Director Hill to apply for HOT funds to a marketing video and billboard advertising. Member Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Director Hill provided a review of the project pipeline report noting an increase in requests for co-locations. The OCEDC is cooperating with the USACE regarding the hurricane levee project and has issued letters to property owners indicating the County's involvement. Director Hill briefed the Board on the cancellation of the LaPoint abatement agreement due to changes in their project. The project is still ongoing but no longer under an abatement agreement with the County. She informed the Board about a TCEQ hearing to address applications that have met the first round of approvals for Deepwater Horizon Bucket 2 funding. Orange County is being considered for a \$45M grant to develop and construct a regional wastewater treatment facility. Mrs. Hill announced the sponsorship of the LSCO fishing team before preview the website.

17. **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.**

Board convened in closed session at 11:31 AM

Board reconvened in open session at 11:50 AM

18. **Discussion and possible action resulting from Closed Meeting under Agenda Item No. 17.**

No Action

19. **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.**

Board convened in closed session at 11:51 AM
Board reconvened in open session at 12:00 PM

20. **Discussion and possible action resulting from Closed Meeting under Agenda Item No. 19.**

Officer Jones motioned to issue a letter of intent to Project G for an eight year incentive on phase one of the development and not include phase two. Member Gauthier seconded the motion. Motion approved.

21. **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

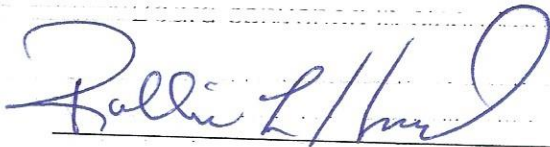
22. **Discussion and possible action regarding possible changes to the date, time and/or place of one or more particular Regular Session(s) if any of such factors are presently anticipated to be changed from standard Board Policy.**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Monday, November 4th in Commissioners' Court at 10:00am in Bridge City.

23. **Adjourn Meeting.**

Officer Jones motioned to adjourn. Member Branch seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:04am.

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11-4-19