



ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MINUTES

January 13, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday January 13, 2025 in the Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom 123 S 6th Street, Orange, TX 77630

Members Present

Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4
Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst
Gina Mannino, City of Bridge City
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Hillary Gravett, City of Orange
Ida Schossow, GOACC
Chad Jennings, Golden Triangle Polymers
David Jones, Gopher Industrial

Members Absent:

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor
Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange
Jerry Hood, City of Pinehurst
Travis Williams, Sabine River Authority
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies

Others Present:

Megan Layne, Executive Director
Jessica Irvin, Business Development Manager
Christopher Leavins, Legal Counsel

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 January 9, 2025.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 10:00 am
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Mayor Branch led the invocation and Chief Stelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Recognize Guests.**
4. **Public Comment**
At this time, members of the public or of the Board of Directors of the Governing authority may comment 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 a comment. Any Deliberation or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the Agenda for a subsequent Regular or Special Board Meeting.

No Comments
5. **Discussion and possible action to approve Minutes for any previous Meeting(s).**

Commissioner Viator motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion Carried.
6. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including:**
 - (A) **Financial report** – Motion to approve financial report made by Mayor Branch, seconded by Member McAlpin. Motion carried.
 - (B) **Bills for payment** – Motion by Member McAlpin, seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.
7. **Discussion and possible action to accept a proposal for audit services for OCEDC.**

Motion to accept a proposal for audit services from Cook Parker and Associates for 2023-2024 was made by Mayor Branch, seconded by Member Mannino. Motion carried.
8. **Discussion and possible action regarding request for audit services proposals for fiscal year 2023-2024.**
Motion by Commissioner Viator to send out RFQs for professional services, seconded by Member Wallace. Motion carried.
9. **Discussion and possible action for review of any topics or findings in the 2024 Orange County Tax Abatement Policy.**

No Action

10. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Discussion and updates on the following

- (A) Project Pipeline Report
 - 1. Project Garnet Stone
 - 2. Project Neighborhood Club
- (B) Economic Forecast Luncheon January 23, 2025 at 11 am.
- (C) Miscellaneous, Open Discussion including meeting with Casey Toohey, Orange County citizen, and Orange EDC Staff to discuss public golf course proposal.

11. 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.

Entered closed meeting at 10:39 am

12. Discussion and possible action resulting from Closed Meeting under Agenda Item No. 9.

Returned from closed meeting at 11:01 am. Motion by Member Mannino for Executive Director to make a recommendation for incentive package to Commissioner's Court for Project Garnet Stone as discussed in closed session. Seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

13. 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.

March 10th, 2025 10 am.

14. Adjourn Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:02 am.

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