



**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

MINUTES

January 9, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday January 9, 2023 in the Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom 123 S 6th Street, Orange, TX 77630

Members Present

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Jay Trahan, City of Orange
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor
Ida Schossow, GOACC
David Jones, Gopher Industrial

Members Absent:

Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange
Brent Walker, City of Bridge City
Jerry Hood, City of Pinehurst
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services
Stephen Lee, First Financial Bank
Travis Williams, Sabine River Authority
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies

Others Present:

Megan Layne, Executive Director
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 4, 2023.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 10:00 am
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Chris Leavins led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Recognize Guests.**

Hillary Gravett – City of Orange EDC Assistant Director

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 inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the Agenda for a subsequent Regular or Special Board Meeting.

Director Layne gave an update to the board regarding the Enterprise Products abatement/amendment. The regularly scheduled Commissioner's Court date for January 10th had to be cancelled due to lack of a quorum, so the Enterprise Products team agreed to sign the original abatement agreement and make the necessary amendment at a later date so not to cause any further delays.

5. **Discussion and possible action to approve Minutes for any previous Meeting(s).**

Member Gauthier motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Trahan. Motion Carried.

6. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including:**
 - (A) **Financial report** – Motion to approve financial report made by Commissioner Viator, seconded by Member Gauthier. Motion carried.
 - (B) **Bills for payment** – Motion by Commissioner Trahan, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding Local First Program for hiring of additional EDC personnel.**

Director Layne recapped the Local First program and discussion had from the last board meeting for those who were not present. Commissioner Trahan provided an update that CP Chem would not require a contract for the use of

the funds for this program and understand that the position would not be required to serve CP Chem exclusively, but would have the ability to work on other EDC tasks as assigned by the Executive Director. This position will work for the EDC and be selected by the EDC Director and board. The funds will be donated to the county and subsequently dispersed through to the EDC for this position.

Motion to hire additional personnel for Local First Program made by Commissioner Trahan, seconded by Member Gauthier. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and possible action approving payment to Arch-Con Corporation for the completion of infrastructure improvements at the Gisela Houseman Medical Complex.

Motion to release payment for utilities infrastructure contingent on certificate of completion and inspection received by the city of Orange made by Commissioner Trahan, seconded by Member Gauthier. Motion carried.

9. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Director Layne provided updates on closed and outstanding items including the Enterprise Products Abatement Amendment, Experience Orange County Winnie billboard vinyl replacement, Retail Strategies trade show upcoming, Vidor City Council meeting update, Economic Forecast Luncheon update, Golden Triangle Days registration still open, and Optimus Steel Abatement Amendment, Humble Island Depth Sounding Study and plans for maternity leave. Megan's plan is to take 2-3 weeks off, then begin working from home periodically responding to calls and emails as needed until returning to work full time after 8-12 weeks. The board suggested having phones routed to the Judge's office in Megan's absence.

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.

None

11. Discussion and possible action resulting from Closed Meeting under Agenda Item No. 6.

None

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

None

- 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 6, 2023 at 10:00 in the Commissioner's Court room.

- 14. Adjourn Meeting.**

Meeting adjourned 10:56 am.

ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
