



**ORANGE COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

**MINUTES**

**March 10, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 9:00 AM Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the Orange County Commissioners' Courtroom, 123 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Orange, Texas 77630 AND Via Zoom ID: 869 9125 0225, Pass Code: 805139

**Members Present**

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1  
Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4  
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange  
Jerry Hood, City of Pinehurst  
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City  
Randy Branch, City of West Orange  
Jay Trahan, City of Orange  
Shawn McAlpin – Orangefield ISD  
Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange  
Ida Schossow, GOACC  
David Jones, Gopher Industrial

**Members Absent:**

Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City  
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange  
T.W. Permenter, City of Pinehurst  
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services  
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor  
Stephen Lee, First Financial Bank  
Travis Williams, Sabine River Authority  
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies

**Others Present:**

Jessica Hill, Executive Director  
Megan Layne, Business Development Manager  
Chris 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 March 7th, 2022.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 9:01 am
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Chris Leavins led the invocation and Officer Stelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Recognize Guests.**

Justin Trahan: City of Pinehurst Code Enforcement  
Cynthia Adams: City of Pinehurst City Council Member

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.

**Commissioner Trahan:** Entergy is seeking support in the form of written letters from individuals and businesses. Those interested can write and submit their letter in the online Entergy Portal voicing their support for the future Entergy Power Plant expansion in Orange County.

**David Jones:** Attended a Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce event where the speaker discussed the energy demands nation wide. He commented that our economy will continue to grow and grow especially in the energy and oil and gas sectors, adding to Commissioner Trahan's comments regarding his support for the Entergy Power Plant.

**Executive Director's Report, Jessica Hill:** Director Hill commented about a recent meeting she and some other community leaders attended in Southwest Louisiana for the US Chamber of Commerce event. She then discussed the ongoing Connected Nation Broadband Survey and mentioned the EDC's efforts to push the messaging out and encourage citizens and business owners to take the survey. Director Hill then briefly discussed the Industry Growth Strategy final report and suggested that we set a time for the Vision First Advisors team to make a presentation to discuss the report and its findings with the board. Finally, she mentioned the 20 industrial projects, 12 retail and commercial projects, and residential developments currently in the EDC pipeline.

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

Member Gauthier made a motion 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 the financial report made by Commissioner Trahan, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

(B) **Bills for Payment:** Motion to approve bills for payment made by Member Gauthier seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

**7. Discussion and possible action to approve Cynthia Adams to represent Pinehurst on the OCEDC Board of Directors.**

Commissioner Viator made a motion to approve Ms. Adams, seconded by Member Gauthier. Motion carried.

**8. Discussion and possible action replacing Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City, on the OCEDC Board of Directors.**

Member Gauthier nominated Brent Walker, Bridge City City Administrator. Seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

**9. Nomination, discussion and action appointing a Vice President of the OCEDC Board of directors.**

Commissioner Trahan nominated Member Terri Gauthier for Vice President. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

**10. Discussion and possible action to approve an agreement to administer funds for the Gisella Houseman Medical Complex.**

Motion to approve contingent upon legal review and adding indemnification language including liability to the OCEDC for infrastructure made by Commissioner Trahan. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

**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.**

Enter closed session 9:43 am

**12. Discussion and possible action resulting from Closed Meeting under Agenda Item No. 8.**

Return from closed session at 9:47 am. No Action

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

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 9am in the Commissioner's Court Room. Presentation by Vision First Advisors to discuss the Industry Growth Strategy and Logistics Report.

**14. 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.**

Tuesday May 3rd, 2022. 10 AM Commissioner's Court Room.

**15. Adjourn Meeting.**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Trahan, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.

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