



**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

MINUTES

March 6, 2023

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

Members Present

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
Jay Trahan, City of Orange
Ida Schossow, GOACC
David Jones, Gopher Industrial

Members Absent:

Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City
Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange
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 March 2, 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 Keith Wallace led the 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.

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

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

6. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including:**

(A) **Financial report** – Motion to approve financial report made by Member Wallace, seconded by Member Trahan. Motion carried.

(B) **Bills for payment** – Motion by Member Wallace, seconded by Member Trahan. Motion carried.

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

The county would like to sponsor the Local First Program instead of the EDC. The Local First employee will report to the county for direction. Item tabled to next meeting pending further discussion with the County Judge regarding sponsoring entity of the program.

8. **Discussion regarding associate members of the Board of Directors of OCEDC**

Discussed associate members of the board's ability to serve on committees on the OCEDC board for matters related to hiring and personnel matters. Member Jones expressed his feelings toward being able to be an active participant of the board, while understanding that his level of membership does not include the ability to vote on matters which require action.

9. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Director Layne informed the board that she will be returning to work part time from home for the remainder of her maternity leave and all phone calls have been forwarded to her personal cell phone. She will continue to respond to emails from home as well until her return full time. The Enterprise Terminalling Amendment has been approved, and we are waiting on it to be executed by both parties. Optimus Steel has requested an amendment to their abatement to include a start date of 2023. That will be presented to Commissioners later this month. The Retail Strategies report from ICSC has been delivered. Copies may be provided to the board upon request if they are interested in seeing some of the conversations that Retail Strategies have been having on our behalf.

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.

May 1, 2023 at 10:00 in the Commissioner's Court room.

14. Adjourn Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 10:40 am.

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