



ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MINUTES

May 4, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00am, Monday, May 4th, Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom 123 S 6th Street, Orange, TX 77630 via Zoom call.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

David Jones, Gopher Industrial
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City
Stephen Lee, First Financial Bank
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services
Ann Galassi, Sabine River Authority
Shawn Sparrow, The Houseman Companies

Others Present:

Jessica Hill, Executive Director
Megan Romero, 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 April 28, 2020.

1. **Convene Meeting.** President Hood opened the meeting at 10:06am.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Mayor Mohon led the invocation and Commissioner Trahan led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Hood led roll call.
3. **Recognize Guests.** No Guests Present
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.

No Comments

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

Motion was made by Officer Stelly to approve the May meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

6. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including the financial report and bills for payment.**

(A.) Director Hill reported we have collected all membership dues, minus the final payment from the County which will come this summer. Total assets to date \$337,173. Nothing significant to report with regards to expenditures, everything is either under or on budget. Total expenditures to date are \$264,357. Officer Stelly motioned to approve the report. Member McAlpin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(B.) Director Hill presented the bills for payment totaling \$59,758.26 Officer Stelly motioned to approve the report. Member Gauthier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding business assistance programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The OCEDC received a request from the local hoteliers for assistance to alleviate their current pain related to COVID and their decrease in occupancy rates. Director Hill presented an Emergency Reimbursement Program to the board for hoteliers who apply and are deemed eligible would pay their occupancy tax, with a request for reimbursement of HOT tax eligible expenditures, preferably, advertising expenses. For hoteliers to be eligible for this program, they would

need to be current on their tax payments and must not have been delinquent on tax payment more than twice in the last 6 months. Several points were discussed between members and staff regarding the specifics of the proposed program and what the potential impacts might be. Ultimately, no action was taken on this item.

8. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Director Hill has been speaking with the workforce board and the data they have been collecting, and they provided us with a link to track local unemployment data. This link was provided to the board to further explore this data if they choose to do so. Director Hill informed the board that Chevron has delayed their final investment decision until next year. We are hoping for their announcement Q1 or Q2 of 2021. She also briefly discussed a few other projects still on our pipeline that have been slightly delayed due to COVID-19. Director Hill also reviewed some of the resources for small businesses that have been shared on the OCEDC website. The Petrochemical Downstream show was moved from an in person trade show to a virtual, all online trade show. They have forwarded our registration to next year for our exhibition booth at the 2021 show. Megan then presented the preliminary handout for the Business Retention and Expansion program that the OCEDC is working to establish. The members were shown the outline of the program that is aimed at assisting businesses in the community grow and expand as well as what services the EDC can offer to help those businesses that may need it.

9. 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.

Bypass – No Action

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

Bypass – No Action

11. 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

12. **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, July 6th in Commissioner's Courtroom.

13. **Adjourn Meeting.**

Member Mohon motioned to adjourn. Officer Stelly seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

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