



ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MINUTES

May 5, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday May 5, 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
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Bart Bartkowiak, City of Bridge City
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Dr. Wendy Elmore, Lamar State College Orange
Hillary Gravett, City of Orange
Ida Schossow, GOACC
David Jones, Gopher Industrial
Chad Jennings, Golden Triangle Polymers

Members Absent:

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Gina Mannino, City of Bridge City
Keith Wallace, Port of 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 May 1, 2025.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 10:01 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.**

None

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.

Welcome and introduction of new board members, Dr. Wendy Elmore and Bart Bartkowiak.

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

Mayor McAlpin 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 Gravett. Motion carried.

(B) **Bills for payment** – Motion by Mayor Branch, seconded by Member McAlpin Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action to revise the current Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Program Guidelines.**

Motion to accept staff's recommendation to revise the Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Program Guidelines to the changes below, made by Commissioner Viator. Seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

1. Applicant organization must have a government issued Tax Identification Number. Applications for proposed events/use of funds must be for events/purposes located in Orange County, Texas. Applications must be submitted by the entity/organization that will be hosting the event/project.

2. Applications submitted by for profit organizations may be considered at the discretion of the Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee, and Orange County Commissioners Court. These applicants will be limited to a maximum allocation amount of \$5,000 per application.

8. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Discussion and updates of the following.

- (A) Project Pipeline Report
- (B) Governor's Small Business Summit Recap
- (C) Bassmaster, Orange County/City of Orange Hospitality Pavilion Update
- (D) Visitor's Guide Update
- (E) Retail Strategies Update
- (F) Miscellaneous, Discussion regarding pending or future development projects in Orange County.

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.

None

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

None

11. 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.

Next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

12. Adjourn Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 10:52 am.

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Date _____