



**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

MINUTES

July 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday July 12th, 2021 in the Orange County Commissioners' Courtroom, 123 S. 6th Street, Orange, Texas 77630 AND Via Zoom, Meeting ID 865 7100 4865, Passcode 744675

Members Present:

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Shawn McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Ida Schossow, GOACC
David Jones, Gopher Industrial
Brad Childs, Ace Hardware Childs Building
Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange

Members Absent:

Jay Trahan, City of Orange
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Jerry Hood, City of Pinehurst
T.W. Permenter, City of Pinehurst
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City
Jerry Jones, City of Bridge City
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
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 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 June 30th, 2021.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Trahan opened the meeting at 10:05 am
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Chris Leavins led the invocation and Commissioner Viator led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Recognize Guests.** Leigh Anne Dallas, City of Orange EDC; Snow Ngueyn, GOACC Intern
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.

No Comments

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

Officer Stelly made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

6. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including:**
 - (A) Motion to approve the financial report made by Officer Stelly, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.
 - (B) Total bills for payment \$96,002.95. Motion to approve bills for payment made by Officer Stelly, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding the 2021-2022 Budget.**

Discussion only, no action.

8. **Discussion and possible action nominating two (2) representatives to serve on the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee for Orange County.**

Motion by Officer Stelly to appoint Jack Patel and T.W. Permenter to the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and possible action authorizing the OCEDC Executive Director to apply for Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds.

Motion to approve authorizing Executive Director to apply for Orange County Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds by Officer Stelly. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

10. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Director Hill reviewed notes sent by Retail Consultant, Chris Bontrager with Retail Strategies. These notes detailed interest and prospective new retailers interested in locating in Orange County. An update on the Chevron Phillips Chemical site improvements was also given. No final investment decision has been announced by the project team, but site improvement work is still ongoing at the site. EDC Staff, Megan, will be attending Retail Live event in Austin, Texas in September to possibly identify potential new retailers/franchises for Orange County. Orange County HOT Tax applications open August 1st and will be accepted through August 31st. Director Hill also gave updates on other project leads including a steel project, hydrogen project, retail project and the broadband initiative in Orange County.

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.

Entered closed session at 10:52 am.

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

Returned from closed session at 11:19 am.

Motion to recommend an agreement with Eagle RX mirroring the City of Orange's abatement agreement, with review from legal council made by Officer Stelly. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

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.

None.

- 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.**

Due to September 6th being a County recognized holiday, motion to move the next meeting date to Monday September 13th, made by Officer Stelly. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held in the Orange County Commissioner's Court Room on Monday September 13th, 2021 at 10:00 am.

- 15. Adjourn Meeting.**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Viator, seconded by Officer Stelly. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

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