orange county, texas

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ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MINUTES

July 13th, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday July 13th, 2026 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
Robbie Hood, City of Pinehurst
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Bart Bartkowiak, City of Bridge City
Dr. Wendy Elmore, Lamar State College Orange
Ida Schossow, GOACC

Members Absent:

Chad Jennings, Golden Triangle Polymers
David Jones, Gopher Industrial
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Hillary Gravett, Orange EDC
Vicky Hernandez, Powering Coastal Texas
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 July 8th, 2026.

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

2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.** Chris Leavins led the invocation and Chief Stelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Recognize Guests.**

   Jay Trahan, City of Orange EDC

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.

   None

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

   Member Bartkowiak motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Hood. Motion Carried.

6. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including:**
   - **(A) Financial report –** Motion to approve financial report made by Member Bartkowiak, seconded by Member Hood. Motion carried.
   - **(B) Bills for payment** – Motion to approve by Dr. Elmore, seconded by Member Bartkowiak. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding TexPool transfers from restricted accounts.**

   Motion by Member Bartkowiak to invest the restricted funds from 39210 Levee Project, 39211 Healthcare Recruitment, and 39212 Land Acquisition and Development accounts into TexPool, and any action required by the CPA – Edgar Kiker Cross. Seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - Deliberation pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters and Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney, regarding the Executive Director.**

   Entered closed session at 10:24 am

9. **Discussion and possible action regarding Executive Session under No. 8, regarding the Executive Director.**

Returned from closed session at 10:40 am. No action.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the FINAL Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

Motion by Dr. Elmore to approve the FY 2026-2027 Budget effective October 1, 2026 including changes to the Leased Personnel Line item to reflect a $1/Hr increase for Business Development Manager, Jessica Irvin, as well as a $5,000.00 annual increase for Executive Director, Megan Layne as agreed upon in the Executive Director's Contract. Seconded by Member Hood. Motion carried.

11. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Discussion and updates of the following.

(A) USG Paper LLC amendment approved and fully executed.
(B) Project Capstone update, their loan closing has been delayed, additional updates TBD
(C) Update on Pinehurst former HEB Site – meeting with broker
(D) Update on Bridge City former Hamburger Depot – contact with broker
(E) HOT Tax application update, applications will open August 1st.
(F) Orange County Restaurant week to take place Sept 21-27th.
(G) Miscellaneous, Discussion regarding pending or future development projects in Orange County.

12. 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 10:54 am.

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

Return from closed session at 11.06 am. No action

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.

September 14th at 10:00 am.

15. Adjourn Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:07 am.

ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

______________________________________ Date______________________