



## **ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

### **MINUTES**

**July 21, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday July 21, 2025 in the Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom 123 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Orange, TX 77630

#### **Members Present**

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1  
Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4  
Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst  
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange  
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD  
Hillary Gravett, City of Orange  
Ida Schossow, GOACC  
Chad Jennings, Golden Triangle Polymers

#### **Members Absent:**

Randy Branch, City of West Orange  
David Jones, Gopher Industrial  
Bart Bartkowiak, City of Bridge City  
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor  
Dr. Wendy Elmore, Lamar State College Orange  
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  
Sandra Howard, 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 17, 2025.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 10:01 am
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Directors Present.**  
Commissioner Trahan led the invocation and Chief Stelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Recognize Guests.**  
  
Sheila Vincent, Cook Parker and Associates  
Sandra Howard, Germer PLLC
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.*
5. **Discussion and possible action to approve Minutes for any previous Meeting(s).**  
  
Mayor McAlpin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion Carried.
6. **Discussion and possible action to approve the 2023-2024 Audit report by Cook Parker, PLLC**  
  
Sheila Vincent presented the audit report from the 2023-2024 audit with a clean report. Commissioner Trahan made a motion to approve the audit report, seconded by Commissioner Viator. Motion carried.
7. **Discussion and possible action on financial matters including:**
  - (A) **Financial report** – Motion to approve financial report made by Member McAlpin, seconded by Commissioner Trahan. Motion carried.
  - (B) **Bills for payment** – Motion by Commissioner Trahan, seconded by Commissioner Viator Motion carried.
8. **Discussion and possible action regarding the DRAFT Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.**

No action.

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

Commissioner Trahan made a motion to appoint Peter Patel and Chad Jennings to the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee. Seconded by Member Gravett. Motion carried.

**10. Executive Director's Regular Report.**

Discussion and updates of the following.

- A. FAME Chapter Dues
- B. Placer.ai increase
- C. Project Case
- D. Project Block
- E. Retail Strategies visit
- F. Restricted Hospital Funds
- G. County Line Rail

**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.**

None

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

None

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION -Deliberation pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters and Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney, regarding the Executive Director and contract renewal with the Orange County Economic Development Corporation.**

Entered closed session at 11:23 am

**14. Consideration and possible action resulting from Executive Session under agenda item no. 13 regarding the Executive Director and contract renewal with the Orange County Economic Development Corporation.**

Return from closed session at 11:50 am

Motion by Member McAlpin to extend the Executive Director Contract at a 2 year interval with a \$5,000 salary increase for the 25-26 fiscal year, and to include a 1 year extension based off a successful annual evaluation.

Seconded by Member Gravett Motion carried.

- 15. 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

- 16. Adjourn Meeting.**

Meeting adjourned 11:54 am.

**ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_