



**ORANGE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

MINUTES

September 5, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 9:00 AM Tuesday September 5, 2023 in the Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom 123 S 6th Street, Orange, TX 77630

Members Present

Mike Stelly, City of West Orange
Randy Branch, City of West Orange
Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD
Ida Schossow, GOACC
David Jones, Gopher Industrial

Members Absent:

Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange
Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1
Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4
Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City
Jay Trahan, City of Orange
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor
Jerry Hood, City of Pinehurst
Daniel Moreaux, Moreaux Transportation Services
Stephen Lee, First Financial Bank
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 September 1, 2023.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 9:08 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.**

Hillary Gravett, City of Orange
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).**

Mayor Branch motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Member McAlpin. 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 McAlpin. Motion carried.
 - (B) **Bills for payment** – Motion by Member McAlpin, seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.
7. **Discussion and possible action regarding budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2023 as listed:**
 - (A) **Fund Balance: \$220,000 received by Sabine River Authority 7/15/2022 (from retained earnings)**
 - (B) **Received grant/payment for hospital infrastructure: \$420,000**
Motion to approve the budget amendments as listed made by Mayor Branch, seconded by Member McAlpin. Motion Carried.
8. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.**

Motion by Member McAlpin to approve the FY2023-2024 Budget effective October 1, 2023 to include a \$5,000.00 increase for the Executive Director plus a 5% padding to the Leased Personnel line item. Seconded by Member Adams. Motion carried.

9. Nomination, discussion and action appointing the 2023-2024 OCEDC Board of Directors Officers.

Motion by Mayor Branch to leave the slate of officers the same for 2023-2023, seconded by Member McAlpin. Motion carried.

President: Chief Mike Stelly, City of West Orange

Vice President: Terri Gauthier, City of Bridge City

Secretary/Treasurer: Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Commissioner Robert Viator, Orange County

10. Discussion and possible action designating signatories on the OCEDC Stellar Bank checking account and authorizing the execution of any necessary resolutions or authorizations regarding same.

Motion to approve changes to signatories to the extent deemed necessary by Stellar Bank made by Member McAlpin, seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

11. Executive Director's Regular Report.

Discussion/updates on the following.

- Local First Vendor Fair – the vendor fair on July 26th was a success with over 400 local businesses represented at the event.
- Hotel Occupancy Tax Applications closed August 31st. Staff received 28 applications which will be reviewed in the coming weeks.
- Retail Strategies: attending Retail Live in Austin on our behalf. Staff will review that report once we receive it.
- Project Zebra update.
- Project Enterprise update.
- Project Adam update.

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.

None

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

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.**

November 6, 2023 at 10:00 in the Commissioner's Court room.

- 15. Adjourn Meeting.**

Meeting adjourned 9:59 am.

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