



**ORANGE COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

**MINUTES**

**September 9, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation convened in a Regular Meeting at 10:00 AM Monday September 9, 2024 in the Orange County Commissioner's Courtroom 123 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Orange, TX 77630

**Members Present**

Commissioner Robert Viator, Pct. 4  
Randy Branch, City of West Orange  
Cynthia Adams, City of Pinehurst  
Mike Stelly, City of West Orange  
Shaun McAlpin – Orangefield ISD  
Chad Jennings, Golden Triangle Polymers

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Pct. 1  
Christopher Baker, City of Bridge City  
Gina Mannino, City of Bridge City  
Jay Trahan, City of Orange  
Ida Schossow, GOACC  
Keith Wallace, Port of Orange  
David Jones, Gopher Industrial  
Robbie Hood, City of Vidor  
Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College 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 September 5, 2024.

1. **Convene Meeting** President Stelly opened the meeting at 10:05 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.**

Mayor David Rutledge, City of Bridge City

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.*

No Comments

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

Member McAlpin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Viator. 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 Mayor Branch, seconded by Member Adams. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.**

Motion by Commissioner Viator to approve the FY2024-2025 Budget effective October 1, 2024 to include a \$5,000.00 increase for the Executive Director salary (per employment contract) and Business Development Manager salary increase to \$28.22 per hour (in accordance with new federal and state legislations) to Leased Personnel line item. Seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

- 8. Discussion and possible action to move \$50,000 of retained earnings to restricted funds, account number 39212 Land Acquisition and Development for the purpose of future development opportunities.**

Motion by Member McAlpin, seconded by Commissioner Viator.

- 9. Nomination, discussion and action appointing the 2024-2025 OCEDC Board of Directors Officers.**

Motion by Member McAlpin for the following as the 2024-2025 slate of officers. Seconded by Commissioner Viator, motion carried.

President: Chief Mike Stelly, City of West Orange

Vice President: Commissioner Johnny Trahan, Orange County

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 by Commissioner Viator to remove Terri Gauthier and add Johnny Trahan to bank accounts as signatory, all other signatories will remain the same. Seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

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

Motion to appoint Chad Jennings and Peter Patel to the HOT Tax Committee made by Robert Viator, seconded by Mayor Branch. Motion carried.

- 12. Executive Director's Regular Report.**

Discussion and updates on the following

(A) Project Pipeline Report

1. Project Blue Oleander

2. Tidal Grow

3. Approved Drainage Projects Report

(B) HOT Tax Applications and Committee Meeting

(C) New Software for 2024-2025

(D) Retail Update

1. Sales Tax Reports

(E) County Abatement Policy Renewal, November 2024

(F) 2023-2024 Recap

- 13. 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 11:10 am

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

Returned from Closed Session at 11:18 am, no action.

- 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.**

November 4th, 2024 at 10:00 in the Commissioner's Court room.

- 16. Adjourn Meeting.**

Meeting adjourned 11:21 am.

**ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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