



Oak Grove Economic Development Committee
Special Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2026
Oak Grove Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Session of the Oak Grove Economic Development Committee (EDC) was called to order by Chairperson Richard Baker at 9:30 a.m. in the Oak Grove Council Chambers located at 8505 Pembroke Oak Grove Road, Oak Grove, Kentucky.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

- Chairperson/Committee Member Richard Baker (Chairperson at the time attendance was called)
- Vice Chairperson/Committee Member Isaiah Spencer (Vice Chairperson at the time attendance was called)
- Public Works Director/Committee Member Brian Ahart
- Committee Member Janet Edwards
- Committee Member Traci Cunningham
- City Clerk Lorelynn Fisher
- Also in attendance were Mayor Oliver, Police Chief Victor Lynch, and Finance Director Matt Egbert
- There were zero citizens in attendance

REVIEW OF MINUTES-NOVEMBER 17, 2025

Motion: Edwards moved to approve the minutes

Second: Ahart

Vote: Voice vote

Results: Passed

AGENDA

1. **2026 Election of Chairperson**

Selection of a board member to serve as Chairperson for the 2026 term

Motion: Baker moved to elect Edwards as Chairperson

Second: Cunningham

Result: Motion passed

2. **2026 Election of Vice Chairperson**

Selection of a board member to serve as Vice Chairperson for the 2026 term

Motion: Cunningham moved to elect Ahart as Vice Chairperson

Second: Edwards

Result: Motion passed

3. **Strategic Plan Update**

This update will be regarding key strategies and goals for local business growth and community prosperity

The plan will be forwarded to Mr. Primm for review, as Edwards is awaiting feedback from Wooldridge.

4. **Grant Program Discussion**

Discussion on grant opportunities the city can offer to businesses

The Committee discussed potential grant opportunities the City could offer to businesses. Edwards drafted a grant application outlining regulations. Businesses must complete the work prior to applying and provide receipts or other proof of payment for reimbursement. The Committee discussed promoting the grant program through social media, press releases, the Tourism page, and announcements at City Council meetings. Spencer suggested creating a local business publication to share information with all businesses. The possibility of awarding one grant this year and highlighting it prominently to encourage future participation was discussed. Finance Director Egbert stated that \$10,000 has been allocated to a discretionary account no monies were included in the 2026 budget for this grant. He also mentioned that a nonprofit committee may be better suited to oversee the grant program. Egbert confirmed he will ensure four grants are included in the 2027 budget.

5. **Recent Business Departures**

Discussion on businesses that have departed

The Committee discussed several businesses that have departed from Oak Grove. Discussion included whether departures were due to personal or city-related reasons. It was noted that several businesses left due to personal challenges, and in some cases, location factors contributed to their decision.

6. **Business Attraction/PWD Letter Status Update Discussion of strategies for attraction, including an update on PWD letters as part of the City's efforts to communicate with**

prospective businesses and encourage new investment, job creation, and overall economic growth

The Committee discussed business attraction strategies, including an update on PWD letters used to communicate with prospective businesses and encourage investment, job creation, and economic growth. Ahart reported he is targeting businesses that align with Oak Grove's demographics, location, size, and proximity to military installations. He has resubmitted several letters and identified a business, Taco Rouse, that is currently seeking locations; however, he has not received a response. Ahart also noted that individuals have inquired about land development opportunities, and he provides assistance whenever possible. He stated that Oak Grove is gaining attention. Edwards asked about revising or rewording outreach letters. Ahart noted that, unfortunately, such letters may not always reach the appropriate decision-makers.

7. Ribbon Cutting Discussion

Discussion of ideas and planning for ribbon cutting events within the city

The Committee discussed planning and participation in ribbon cutting events. Edwards asked whether the City should formally conduct ribbon cuttings. It was noted that the Mayor and Traci have invited Council members to past ribbon cuttings. Spencer suggested that City Council members participate in photo opportunities with ceremonial shovels to visibly demonstrate support for businesses. Cunningham stated that the Mayor, Council, Tourism representatives, and Magistrates should attend ribbon cuttings. Mayor Oliver indicated she plans to invite the Judge Executive, Magistrates, Council members, and other appropriate officials to future events.

8. Monthly Recognitions

Discussion of ideas for business recognition and engagement

The Committee discussed ideas for business recognition and engagement. It was noted that the City already has established guidelines and simply needs to begin publishing recognitions. Edwards will create a flyer to be distributed through press releases, newspapers, and radio stations.

9. Street Names

Discussion on the naming of streets within the city

The Committee discussed the naming of streets within the City. Edwards proposed naming new streets after Oak Grove officials, beginning with former Mayors, as a way to show appreciation. Baker noted that developers typically name streets. Cunningham suggested the Mayor discuss potential naming considerations with developers. Edwards emphasized the importance of recognition and public appreciation to promote unity and honor community leadership.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Cunningham

Vote: Voice vote

Results: Passed

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:33am.

APPROVED:

Chairperson/Committee Member Janet Edwards

DATE

ATTEST:

Lorelynn Fisher, MMC, CKMC, City Clerk

DATE

DRAFT