

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE
THURSDAY, November 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. at Liberty Executive Park II, located at 1301 Executive Boulevard, Chesapeake, VA 23322.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick L. Reynolds, Chairman; Vonda W. Chappell, Vice Chairman; Bradley Brickhouse, Secretary; Kevin J. Cosgrove, Treasurer/Assistant Secretary; John Maddux, Member; Dawn Matheson, Member; Tonya Gill, Member; Luis Jimenez, Member; Michael Malone, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary

COUNSEL PRESENT: Jim Pickrell, KPCT PC, EDA Attorney

CED STAFF PRESENT: Ben White; Preston Wilhelm; Lloyd Jackson; Tim Howlett; Sherry Barnette; Constantia Matthews; Kerstin Plarr; Stephanie Glover;

GUESTS PRESENT: Jay Stroman, City Attorney; Susan Rowling, Deputy City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Patrick Reynolds, Chairman, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

MEETING MINUTES: After a review of the October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes, Mr. John Maddux, made a motion; seconded by Ms. Dawn Matheson, to accept the minutes from the October 15, 2020 Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT(S): Mr. Steven Wright, Chesapeake Economic Development, presented the treasurer's report for October, 2020. No other questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chairman Patrick Reynolds declared October, 2020 Treasurer's Report filed for audit.

INVOICES:

All of the invoices were approved budgeted invoices

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright provided an update from the recent City Council retreat, where there was a lot of discussion about visioning for the City. Two takeaways from the retreat were: 1) a focus on place making – the need to create better places (such as neighborhoods, commerce parks, and shopping centers); and 2) the idea of site preparedness. Mr. Wright stated he firmly believes that City Council is full committed to making sure Chesapeake has the available product to compete for some of the quality economic development projects that we hope to see in the near future.

Mr. Wright stated the remaining topics will be discussed in closed session.

OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright updated there is no new information to report but there will be talk about a property adjacent to Oakbrooke in the closed session.

Mr. Wright updated Blackwater Electric has completed the construction of their building and are hosting an Open House on December 18th – it will be a scaled-down event due to COVID-19.

WESTERN BRANCH UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright updated the construction on Portsmouth Boulevard with both the Amazon facilities have been very active construction sites. Mr. Wright noted It is extremely impressive to see how quickly Amazon has ramped up the construction activity at both sites. No firm date on when it will be completed and operational, but they appear to be ahead of schedule.

Mr. John Maddux updated things are very slow at the mall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated they have floated several proposals for alternate uses of the mall space but no decisions have been made. Mr. Maddux noted the pandemic has drastically slowed down the decision making process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee reports will be covered by Mr. John Maddux and Mr. Kevin Cosgrove in Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Steven Wright recommended making the December 10th EDA meeting be a virtual meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would be held virtually via ZOOM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Steven Wright updated the deadline for accepting COVID-19 Recovery Grant applications was November 16, 2020 and CED stopped accepting applications at that time. He noted that this process was challenging and that a lot has been learned about the City's small business community. Mr. Wright thinks the City and CED are well-positioned to be of greater assistance to small businesses in the future. Mr. Wright thanked the members of the Authority, CED staff, and Mr. David Ropp for the hard work it took to make the COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grant program successful. Mr. Wright recommended that both the EDA and City Council publically acknowledge Mr. Ropp's contribution to the success of the program by way of an official proclamation.

Ms. Constantia Matthews provided an update on the second round of the applications. Ms. Matthews reported 279 grant applications were received, 144 grants have been awarded to date, and the remaining applications are in the various stages of the process. The current expected award amount is \$2,193,994.37 with the final numbers to be announced at the December EDA meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. James Pickrell, EDA Counsel, stated the executive session will cover:

Clause 3, discussion of acquisition of real property and/or disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in open session would adversely affect the negotiating position of the EDA.

Clause 6, discussion of consideration of investment of public funds where competition is involved where if made public initially the financial position of the EDA would be adversely affected.

Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion; seconded by Mr. John Maddux to go into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Dawn Matheson and seconded by Mr. John Maddux certifying that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were identified in the motion convening the executive discussion were heard, discussed or considered. The certification was approved unanimously.

Mr. Kevin Cosgrove disclosed that a party to a matter to be discussed in closed session is a client of his firm, however he has not ever done any work personally for this company, and the lawyers in his firm who do work for this company are not doing any work for this company with respect to the matter to be discussed. Mr. Cosgrove stated there is not a legal conflict and the disclosure was made for the purposes of declaring he is able to participate in the closed session discussion fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion; seconded by Ms. Vonda Chappell to leave the Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Kevin Cosgrove made a motion that the City Attorney be authorized to continue negotiations working forward on the matter that was discussed in closed session; seconded by Ms. Vonda Chappell. The motion was unanimously approved.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Mr. Steven Wright reminded members the deadline to complete the mandatory conflict of interests ethics training is **December 31, 2020**. Mr. Wright stated the mandatory training is an audited item.

Mr. Ben White announced Mr. Steven Wright was selected by Consultant Connect, an organization that serves economic developers in site selection in Canada and the United States, for their yearly top 50 economic developers list.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, it was the consensus to adjourn the meeting.



Steven C. Wright
Executive Secretary