

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE  
THURSDAY, February 18, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual link.

**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; Sherry Barnette; Tim Howlett; Curtis Cobert; Constantia Matthews; Kerstin Plarr; Stephanie Glover; Jude Jackson

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jacob Stroman, City Attorney; Susan Rowling, Deputy City Attorney; Ms. Ashleigh Newman, Project Manager w/Whiting-Turner Contracting Company; Mr. Ocean Pierson, owner of Majestik Auto Spa in Mount Pleasant, Chesapeake.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**WELCOME:**

Mr. Steven Wright introduced Mr. Ocean Pierson, a Mt. Pleasant business owner. Mr. Pierson thanked the members for the CED Department outreach stating it has been very helpful and encouraging. Mr. Wright also acknowledged Ms. Ashleigh Newman, a Project Manager with Whiting-Turner Contracting Company. Ms. Newman thanked the members stating Whiting-Turner (WT) is available to help in any way they can assist.

**MEETING MINUTES:** After a review of the January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Ms. Dawn Matheson, made a motion; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone, to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2021 Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT(S):** Mr. Steven Wright, Chesapeake Economic Development, presented the treasurer’s report for January 2021. No other questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chairman Patrick Reynolds declared January 2021 Treasurer’s Report filed for audit.

**INVOICES:**

All of the invoices were approved budgeted invoices

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright updated the Summit Pointe development continues to evolve and a First Watch restaurant with longer hours will break ground late spring or early summer. Mr. Wright also updated the City of Chesapeake has been informed by the GSA (General Services Administration of the Federal Government) that Chesapeake has been selected to be the site for the VA Clinic. The GSA is considering two (2) sites both located in Chesapeake and will make a final decision in the next couple of months.

Mr. Wright advised Chesapeake Economic Development (CED) has opened a pop-up office in the Kroger shopping center in Mount Pleasants. The pop-up office location is open on Tuesday and Thursday to provide additional assistance to the businesses in that area. CED staff members are available at this office Tuesday morning from 9:00 am to 11:00 am; and Thursday afternoon from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER UPDATE:**

Mr. Tim Howlett updated current contact information for all the property owners has been confirmed and a letter regarding the POA transition was mailed. Mr. Howlett stated the property owners should start to make contact and advise who their business representatives will be. The election of officers is set to take place in April making it possible to continue with the transition.

**WESTERN BRANCH UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright updated the Kotarides team is working very aggressively at the mall to bring some of the plans to fruition regarding the development of some of the mall property. Mr. Wright reported City Council has just approved an imaging center in the mall that will be operated by a Chesapeake Regional medical facility. Mr. Wright also reported other non-traditional uses for the mall property are in consideration that will add significant value.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Committee reports will be covered in Closed Session.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT:**

Ms. Constantia Matthews provided an update on the third round of applications. To date 64 applications have been received; 12 grants awarded totaling \$120,000.00 with 6 disqualifications mainly because the businesses received a grant from a previous round. Currently 32 applications are being reviewed by the EconDev staff and 14 applications are ready for sub-committee review. Ms. Matthews reported there has been a lot of activity.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Steven Wright reviewed the Plasser American EDIP resolution requesting a vote of approval. Mr. Wright noted Plasser American is building a new North American headquarters facility off of Atlantic Avenue which includes approximately 8,000 square feet of industrial and manufacturing space and a multi-story office building. Plasser American is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this project is expected to create 100 new jobs.

Mr. John Maddux made a motion to approve the EDIP grant for Plasser American; seconded by Mr. Kevin Cosgrove. Mr. Steven Wright conducted a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

**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 5, discussion of a prospective business where no previous public announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating in Chesapeake, VA.

Clause 8, discussion of consultation with legal counsel retained by the EDA regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel.

Mr. John Maddux made a motion; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone to go into Executive Session. Mr. Steven Wright conducted a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Dawn Matheson seconded by Mr. Bradley Brickhouse 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.

Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion; seconded by Mr. Bradley Brickhouse to leave the Executive Session. Mr. Steven Wright conducted a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** Mr. Steven Wright updated the Mayor’s State of the City Address will be a hybrid virtual event on March 25, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the Chesapeake Conference Center.

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



Steven C. Wright  
Executive Secretary

Minutes provided by Jude Jackson