

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE  
THURSDAY, April 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, April 15, 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  
Luis Jimenez, Member  
Tonya Gill, Member  
Michael Malone, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dawn Matheson, Member

**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; Becky Greenwald, Chair, Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council; Torrey Breeden with Breeden Developers; Lauren LaBonte with CapCenter; Cheyney Cole with S.L. Nusbaum; Ashleigh Newman with Whiting Turner Contracting; Vic Nicholls; Larry Barry; Chad Brochard

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**AUDIT:**

Cherry Bekaert, LLP, presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit of Financial Statements. The results indicated a clean audit opinion. Mr. Steven Wright thanked Ms. Tracey Bedgood, Senior Audit Manager, Cherry Bekaert, for her work on the audit along with Ms. Constantia Matthews, Chesapeake Economic Development, for her contributions working with the auditor. Mr. John Maddux made a motion; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit of Financial Statements by Cherry Bekaert, LLP. Mr. Steven Wright conducted a roll call vote and the motion was approved 8 - 0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Becky Greenwald gave a presentation on the Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council (CECI) of which she is the Chair. Ms. Greenwald advised the purpose of the council is to promote an interest in improving Chesapeake's environment through outreach, education, and volunteer efforts. She highlighted the Business Beautification Award in the hope of creating awareness about this program and to encourage businesses to improve the environment surrounding their facilities. Ms. Greenwald will provide the Authority with a flyer outlining the specific criteria for nominating businesses for this award.

Mr. Steven Wright announced the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Appreciation Golf Tournament will be held at the Greenbrier Country Club on June 4, 2021. A shotgun start will be at 9:00 am with the 19<sup>th</sup> hole in the Greenbrier Country Clubhouse. The proceeds from the tournament will be awarded to the Chesapeake Public Schools Foundation. CED will be sending out additional information to the business community.

**WELCOME:**

Mr. Steven Wright introduced the visitors and guests attending the meeting and offered each one an opportunity to address the Authority. Ms. Lauren LaBonte with CapCenter thanked the members and congratulated the EDA on a strong audit. Ms. Ashleigh Newman with Whiting Turner also thanked the members and congratulated the EDA on a good audit.

**MEETING MINUTES:** After a review of the March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Mr. Kevin Cosgrove made a motion; seconded by Mr. John Maddux, to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2021 Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**INVOICES:**

All invoices were approved budgeted invoices

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:**

Mr. Ben White updated that members of the EconDev staff have been entertaining Project Big Belly representatives who had acquired land through CED and were visiting from Japan. He advised they are working through the development process for their 100,000 square foot warehouse space. Mr. White advised CED is expecting to see more capital investment and job creation as a result of this expansion project.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE continued:**

Mr. White also advised that CED has been engaged in business retention activity which has gotten some very good feedback from meetings with existing Chesapeake businesses.

**OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER UPDATE:**

Mr. Tim Howlett updated that to complete the transfer of the POA to the Oakbrooke business owners some of the bylaws must be amended. Mr. John Maddux made a motion to authorize the three (3) directors to vote to adopt a set of bylaws for the Oakbrooke POA; seconded by Mr. Kevin Cosgrove. Mr. Steven Wright conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

**WESTERN BRANCH UPDATE:**

To be discussed in closed session.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Committee reports will be covered in Closed Session.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Mr. Ben White updated CED has started the fourth round of funding for the Cares Act Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Grant program. Mr. White reported CED has already awarded approximately 3 million dollars in grants. In the fourth round businesses are eligible to receive up to \$12,500.00. Prior grant recipients, about 370 businesses, are eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding of up to \$2,500.00 so that all the Chesapeake businesses that qualify will get the opportunity to receive a maximum of \$12,500.00 in grant dollars.

Mr. Steven Wright encouraged all members of the Authority to be true ambassadors of the grant program and reach out to any businesses they are aware of that have not applied for the grant.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

Mr. Steven Wright reviewed the CED Annual Report stating it is a testament to this Authority that during 2020 in the midst of a worldwide pandemic that the City of Chesapeake was able to generate over \$270,000,000.00 in private sector capital investment and facilitate the creation of over 2600 jobs. Mr. Wright thanked the members for their support of CED and for what the Authority is doing for our community, both the business community and for the citizenry of Chesapeake. We appreciate you all. Chairman Patrick Reynolds acknowledged it is a great team effort.

Mr. Wright addressed returning to meeting in person post full vaccination advising CED can secure vaccination appointments for EDA members if needed. The members agreed to resuming meetings at Liberty Executive Park for the May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 5, discussion of a prospective business where no previous public announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating in Chesapeake, VA.

Clause 6, discussion of consideration of investment of public funds.

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.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Cosgrove seconded by Mr. Michael Malone 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 made a motion; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone to leave the Executive Session. Mr. Steven Wright conducted a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

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



Steven C. Wright  
Executive Secretary