

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, March 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
Michael Malone, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Luis Jimenez, 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: Susan Rowling, Deputy City Attorney; Dianan Gibson, ECS Limited

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME:

Mr. Steven Wright introduced Ms. Dianan Gibson with ECS Limited. Ms. Gibson thanked the members and advised she is the Director of Business Development for ECS in Chesapeake and would like to be involved with the Business Appreciation Golf Tournament.

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

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

INVOICES:

All invoices were approved budgeted invoices

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Ben White updated that at the March 17, 2021 Chamber meeting he presented an overview of the Chesapeake Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Grant. Mr. White reported that Mr. Lloyd Jackson is working with the state and regional economic development groups coordinating an existing business visit program. Mr. White advised CED has a list of businesses the State wants to make a connection with which the CED staff will facilitate and attend.

Mr. White also updated prospect activity has been very busy in the last month. He reported that contrary to some predictions over the last year, there is a lot of activity related to small manufacturers, government contracting, construction companies, as well as large office space users 50,000 square feet or more.

Mr. Steven Wright announced the CED Business Appreciation Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 4, 2021 at the Greenbrier Country Club. A shotgun start will be at 9:00 am with the 19th hole in the Greenbrier Country Clubhouse.

OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER UPDATE:

Mr. Tim Howlett updated a POA first meeting is being scheduled between April 13th and the 15th. At this meeting, the election of officers will take place and Ms. Teresa Peters with Stanton Partners will assist in answering questions regarding the transition process.

Mr. Howlett reported an overburden issue during the development of the AVMAC site. Although a soil test had been done, it failed to identify the overburden issue that required AVMAC to dig 2-3 feet of fill dirt off the site at a huge expense of \$100-\$125k. Also, a small transport fee was assessed by the City to transport the dirt offsite. AVMAC is the first site to be developed in Oakbrooke around the pond and it raises questions about how this issue will impact adjacent sites. Mr. Steven Wright reminded members Parkview Baptist Church will also be developing a sanctuary in another site around the pond.

Mr. Steven Wright shared that several companies purchased land in Oakbrooke prior to the pandemic and proceeded to develop their sites, such as SCI, JRC Mechanical, and Blackwater Electrical. These companies have completed construction and are now open for business, however the pandemic prevented them from holding events to highlight their openings. Mr. Wright advised CED would like to have a series of ribbon cutting events at Oakbrooke to celebrate all the good activity and work that has taken place once the pandemic is over.

WESTERN BRANCH UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright updated he and Chairman, Patrick Reynolds attended a meeting with the Kotarides team where they went into great detail for their plans for the Chesapeake Square Mall site. The plans include some great non-traditional uses.

Mr. John Maddux reported there is a lot of positive activity at the Chesapeake Square Mall site involving several boxes. The plans include a variety of different options that are all being considered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee reports will be covered in Closed Session.

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT:

Mr. Steven Wright gave an overview of rounds 1, 2, and 3 of the grant program highlighting all the different ways CED has utilized to advertise the program, including the addition of a digital billboard. Mr. Wright anticipates there will be a round 4 of the grant program scheduled to begin in early April that will include a few changes. One of the changes being considered is allowing previous grant recipients to get a second smaller grant of approximately \$2,500.00. Additionally, we plan to change the date of service from March 1, 2019 to February 15, 2020 which is the same date the SBA uses to administer the PPP Grant pending City Council approval. CED will be requesting additional money to get more relief into the business community.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Mr. Steven Wright updated the Mayor's State of the City Address:

- March 25, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 2:00

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. Michael Malone made a motion; seconded by Ms. Dawn Matheson 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 Ms. Tonya Gill 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 Ms. Tonya Gill 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

Minutes provided by Jude Jackson