

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE
THURSDAY, December 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Summit Pointe, 555 Belaire Avenue, Suite 310, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin J. Cosgrove, Chair
Julie Anderson, Vice Chair
Dawn Matheson, Treasurer/Asst. Secretary
Vonda W. Chappell, Member
Luis Jimenez, Member
Tonya Gill, Member
Michael Malone, Member
Jeffrey Ganthner, Member

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: M. Bradley Brickhouse, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary

COUNSEL PRESENT: John Sawyer, WRG PC, EDA Counsel

CED STAFF PRESENT: Ben White; Sherry Barnette; Preston Wilhelm; Lloyd Jackson; Tim Howlett;
Kerstin Plarr; Constantia Robinson; Austin Bussey

GUESTS PRESENT: Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; Vic Nichols, citizen

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kevin Cosgrove, Chair, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order. Ms. Vonda Chappel made a motion to adopt the Draft Agenda; seconded by Ms. Julie Anderson. The motion was unanimously approved.

MEETING MINUTES:

After a review of the November 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes, Mr. Jeffrey Ganthner made a motion; seconded by Ms. Tonya Gill, to accept the minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Ms. Constantia Cobert presented the treasurer’s report for November 2023. No questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chair Kevin Cosgrove declared November 2023, Treasurer’s Report filed for audit. Mr. Wright reported the eligible voting EDA members affirmed continuing the EDA’s banking relationship with Towne Bank and provided detailed information regarding the investment accounts. Mr. Wright also reported Cherry Bekaert will present an audit report at next month’s meeting that will include a minor discrepancy error regarding property that was sold and retained which has been corrected.

INVOICES:

All the invoices were approved budgeted invoices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright provided an overview of the continued efforts by CED staff in aggressively marketing opportunities within the City. He requested brief talks from the team on recent marketing events they attended.

Ms. Sherry Barnette reported on a marketing mission with the Alliance to Denmark. Ms. Barnette attended several meetings with companies in offshore wind, health sciences, and other related industries with positive interactions and an expressed interest in visiting the Hampton Roads area.

Mr. Preston Wilhelm reported on a German marketing mission targeting small to medium sized family-owned manufacturing firms in the Munich and Frankfurt areas. Mr. Wilhelm had approximately 12 appointments that included positive discussions for growth opportunities in Chesapeake.

Mr. Wright emphasized the importance of international travel, and reported it is important to attract and assist both new and existing companies. Mr. Wright further advised that over the years some of the largest projects have come from companies that are expanding.

Mr. Lloyd Jackson reported on a domestic marketing mission to the International Workboat Show in New Orleans. Mr. Jackson advised the show presented an excellent opportunity to connect with the commercial marine industry. Mr. Jackson networked with local companies at the event who identified potential businesses that may be interested in coming to Chesapeake.

Mr. Steven Wright reported VNG has acquired the Darden property adjacent to Oakbrooke and plans to build a regional headquarters on approximately 30 acres. Mr. Wright advised the project received unanimous rezoning approval from the City Council, backed by significant community support for the construction and development of the facility. Mr. Wright further advised this development presents a new opportunity for companies that want to be in Chesapeake, and existing companies that want to grow in Chesapeake.

THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:

Mr. Steven Wright reported at next month's meeting, CED staff will provide a detailed analysis of the activity at Three Oaks, including updates on infrastructure, recent developments, and deadlines for infrastructure and property acquisition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. John Sawyer, EDA Counsel, stated the EDA may wish to consider a motion to conduct a closed meeting for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, and the investment of public funds where competition is involved where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating position of the Economic Development Authority (EDA), specifically for potential acquisition of real property for economic development purposes and the disposition of publicly held real property, as well as investment of publicly held funds, consultation with legal counsel requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel as well as investment of public funds all as permitted by Sections 2.2-3711(A) (3) and (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia.


Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Julie Anderson to go into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. John Sawyer, EDA Counsel, stated the EDA may wish to consider a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The certification was approved, and the Executive Session was closed unanimously via a roll call vote.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Chesapeake Regional Hospital Foundation Gala – The Lights are Bright on Broadway
 - Saturday, January 20, 2024 – 6 pm to 12 am
 - Chesapeake Conference Center
- Life Healing Therapy - Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday, Dec 19th at 1pm
 - 517 Kempsville Ave, Suite F

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Julie Anderson made a motion to adjourn; no second being needed, it was the consensus to adjourn the meeting.


Steven C. Wright
Executive Secretary