

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE  
THURSDAY, April 18, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 3:00 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; M. Bradley Brickhouse, Secretary; Vonda W. Chappell, Member; Luis Jimenez, Member; Tonya Gill, Member;

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Michael Malone, Member; Jeffrey Ganthner, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary

**COUNSEL PRESENT:** John Sawyer, WRG PC, EDA Counsel

**CED STAFF PRESENT:** Preston Wilhelm; Sherry Barnette; Tim Howlett; Curtis Cobert; Kerstin Plarr; Constantia Cobert; Austin Bussey; Jude Jackson

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Todd D. Rose, Advisor with SBDC

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MEETING MINUTES:**

After a review of the March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Ms. Julie Anderson made a motion; seconded by Ms. Dawn Matheson, to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2024 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Constantia Cobert presented the treasurer's report for March 2024. No questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chair Kevin Cosgrove declared March 2024, Treasurer's Report filed for audit.

**INVOICES:**

All the invoices were approved budgeted invoices.

**COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Vice Chair Julie Anderson and Treasurer Dawn Matheson volunteered for the Budget Subcommittee and will be working with CED staff on the EDA budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright complimented Mayor West on the annual State of the City address and thanked Authority members who were able to attend. Mr. Wright also reminded members of the QR code feature on the Annual Report post card which provides digital access to the complete report.

Mr. Wright reported CED continues to work collaboratively with several economic development partners like the HR Alliance and Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to aggressively promote Chesapeake in the marketplace.

Ms. Kerstin Plarr partnered with the HR Alliance on a marketing mission to Quebec, Canada where she met with approximately eight different companies representing a variety of industries. Ms. Plarr advised all the companies are interested in establishing a presence in the United States and Chesapeake looks to be a viable option for many of them.

Ms. Sherry Barnette partnered with VEDP to attend the WindEurope Conference in Bilbao, Spain where she had appointments with sixteen companies within the conference and visited an additional five other companies in Bilbao. Ms. Barnette met with off shore wind companies as well as a mixture of other industries.

Ms. Barnette also attended the Sea-Air-Space Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. Ms. Barnette advised the conference was a wonderful networking opportunity and advised she made connections with five different companies with military capabilities located in Chesapeake as well as supporting industries. Biz Visits are being scheduled to follow-up with those local vendors.

Mr. Wright advised he had the opportunity to meet with several members from South Australia representing AUKUS, a military security partnership with Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The HR Alliance and Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipyard hosted the international delegation at an event on the deck of the U.S.S. Wisconsin. The delegation members expressed interest in emulating U.S. shipbuilding and maritime defense practices with plans to establish a presence in the U.S. to learn about American technology and operations.

Mr. Wright reported the EDAC meeting schedule is being reviewed and some changes are being considered.

**THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:**

Mr. Steven Wright updated on discussions with developers interested in speculative industrial space in the park that may present some interesting opportunities. Mr. Wright emphasized the park's focus on advanced manufacturing, but advised the right developer with the appropriate product mix could aid in attracting manufacturing tenants. However, any speculative building proposals will undergo careful selection to ensure alignment with the goals set by the Authority. Additionally, Mr. Wright presented a power slide brief outlining the potential for data center development within the park.

**OAKBROOK BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER:**

Mr. Steven Wright updated there has been interest from an international company currently located in Chesapeake in parcels 3A and 3B which are the last remaining parcels around the lake. CED is expecting a letter of intent in the near future.

**COASTAL VIRGINIA COMMERCE PARK (CVCP):**

Mr. Wright reported the VEDP in conjunction with KPMG met at the CED office to review and discuss our VBRSP application which was well received. Representatives from Kimley-Horn, Aqua Law, Dominion, and both the Director and Deputy Director of the Public Utilities Department assisted with the presentation and participated in the meeting.

**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 where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating position of the Economic Development Authority (EDA); all as permitted by Sections 2.2-3711(A) (3) of the Code of Virginia.

Mr. Luis Jimenez made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dawn Matheson, to go into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion; seconded by Ms. Julie Anderson to leave Executive Session. Chair Kevin Cosgrove took a roll call vote, and the Executive Session was closed unanimously.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- **MedSpa (Summit Pointe) – Ribbon Cutting**
  - April 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm 670 Belaire Avenue
- **Burger Haven – Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting**
  - April 19, 2024 2t 11:00 am – 916 Great Bridge Blvd
- **Crush Digital Marketing - Ribbon Cutting**
  - April 25, 2024 at 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm 660 Independence Pkwy, Suite 310 C
- **Virginia Car Wash Company – Ribbon Cutting**
  - April 26, 2024 at 10:30 am - 11:30 am 4830 Portsmouth Blvd
- **Walmart – Grand Opening**
  - May 10, 2024 at 8:00 am – 8:30 am - 673 Cedar Road
- **Tides Baseball Game – Broker & Business Partner event**
  - May 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm – Tides Baseball Club Harbor Park Stadium

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION CONT.:**

- **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Appreciation Golf Tournament**
  - May 23, 2024 at the Chesapeake Golf Club
- **Bob's Discount Furniture - Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting**
  - May 24, 2024 at 9:00 am – 9:30 am 1324 Greenbrier Pkwy

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



Steven C. Wright  
Executive Secretary

Minutes provided by Jude Jackson