

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE
THURSDAY, June 15, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Summit Pointe, 555 Belaire Avenue, Suite 310, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin J. Cosgrove, Vice Chair
John Maddux, Member
Luis Jimenez, Member
Michael Malone, Member – via Telephone
Tonya Gill, Member

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Vonda W. Chappell, Chair; M. Bradley Brickhouse, Secretary;
Dawn Matheson, Treasurer/Asst. Secretary; Julie Anderson, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary – Virtual

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

CED STAFF PRESENT: Ben White - Virtual; Sherry Barnette; Constantia Robinson; Jude Jackson

GUESTS PRESENT: Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; Toi Hunter, VP Business Retention, Alliance; Nesha Ubiles, CED Summer Intern; Randy Royal, Principal at Kimley-Horne; John Kinsley, Business Development at Image Business Interiors

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kevin Cosgrove, Vice Chair, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order. After a review of the proposed Draft Agenda, hearing no objections, Mr. Cosgrove declared the Draft Agenda adopted and finalized.

MEETING MINUTES:

After a review of the May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes, Mr. John Maddux made a motion; seconded by Mr. Luis Jimenez, to accept the minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Curtis Cobert introduced Ms. Nesha Ubiles as our CED Summer Intern from HR Alliance. Ms. Ubiles is a Real Estate student in her senior year at Old Dominion University, and she will be working with CED staff members for the next six weeks to learn more about the economic development process.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Ms. Constantia Robinson presented the treasurer’s report for May 2023. No questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Vice Chair Kevin Cosgrove declared May 2023, Treasurer’s Report filed for audit.

INVOICES:

All the invoices were approved budgeted invoices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Curtis Cobert reported the 23rd Annual Golf Classic, held at Chesapeake Golf Club on May 19, 2023 was a sold out success! Mr. Cobert thanked the sponsors for their contributions and participation. Mr. Cobert advised the recipient of the proceeds from the tournament will be the Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation, specifically the J.A. Cotton Career Scholar Award. The total contribution will be reported in a future meeting. Additionally, Mr. Cobert reported Total Fiber Recovery, (TFC) recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. The event was attended by Mayor West, EDA members, CED staff and HR Chamber representatives.

THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:

Mr. Preston Wilhelm reported the recent closing of two parcels. Russell’s Heating and Cooling acquired a small parcel to improve parking at their facility and prevent the need for parking along Yupo Court and blocking access from Executive Boulevard. PPC Holdings, (Professional Printing Center) also closed on a two-acre parcel along Yupo Court. Activity at Three Oaks remains robust with active ongoing interest. Mr. Steven Wright and Mr. Ben White are currently meeting with prospective businesses in Europe that are interested in doing business in Chesapeake.

OAKBROOK BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER:

Mr. Ben White updated that a contract is in place for Lot 13 pending execution, while Ms. Sherry Barnette reported there is an executed contract on Lot 2. The only remaining available lots are 12A and part of 13 totaling approximately 4 acres. In addition, Lot 25 is under contract and in the due diligence phase.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Constantia Robinson reported the proposed FY 2024 operations budget for the EDA includes a request from the Chesapeake Small Business Development Center, (SBDC), for an increase in funding. CED staff and the EDA Budget Committee recommend a staged increase to begin this year with established parameters to measure progress. Ms. Jolie Spiers, SBDC Director, and Ms. Kerstin Plarr, CED Small Business Development Manager, will establish the metrics, and milestones for the Authority to review to ensure the SBDC’s effectiveness in assisting the Chesapeake small business community. Mr. Luis Jimenez made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2024 operations budget with the increased line-item contribution to the SBDC; seconded by Mr. John Maddux. The motion was unanimously approved.

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, 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 consultation with legal counsel requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel all as permitted by Sections 2.2-3711(A) (3) of the Code of Virginia.

Mr. Luis Jimenez made a motion, seconded by Mr. John Maddux to go into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

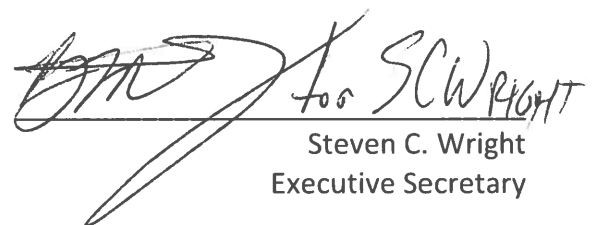
Mr. John Sawyer, EDA Counsel, stated the EDA may wish to consider a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed and only such public business matters as were identified in the 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:

Ms. Tonya Gill addressed the Authority advising both she and Mr. Kevin Cosgrove are involved with the Chesapeake Chamber's WorkForce Development Team. They are actively working on the Chesapeake Worlds of Work (WOW) program, which provides hands-on activities in various vocations for middle school students. Manufacturers are needed to participate in the event, and recommendations were requested to support its success.

Mr. Brian Solis, on behalf of the City Manager's office, congratulated Ms. Catherine Lindley on her acceptance of the City Attorney position.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. John Maddux a motion to adjourn; no second being needed, it was the consensus to adjourn the meeting.


Steven C. Wright
Executive Secretary