

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE  
THURSDAY, April 16, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. via a Call-In Conference Call.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patrick L. Reynolds, Chairman; Vonda W. Chappell, Vice Chairman; Kevin J. Cosgrove, Secretary; Teresa C. Peters, Treasurer; John B. Maddux, Member; Arthur W. Robinson, Member, Dawn Matheson, Member; Valerie Brown, Member; Bradley Brickhouse, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**COUNSEL PRESENT:** Jim Pickrell, KPCT PC, EDA Attorney

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ben White, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Preston Wilhelm, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Tim Howlett, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Sherry Barnette, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Casey Gilchrist, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Constantia Matthews, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Kerstin Plarr, Chesapeake Economic Development  
Dulishu Mapp, Chesapeake Economic Development

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Chris Price, City Manager; Jay Stroman, City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MEETING MINUTES:** After a review of the February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes, Mr. John Maddox, made a motion; seconded by Ms. Teresa Peters, to accept the minutes from the February 20, 2020 Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT(S):** Mr. Steven Wright, Chesapeake Economic Development, presented the treasurer's report for February, 2020. Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Kevin Cosgrove. The motion was unanimously approved. No other questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chairman Patrick Reynolds declared February 2020 Treasurer's Report filed for audit.

Mr. Steven Wright, Chesapeake Economic Development, presented the treasurer's report for March, 2020. Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report; seconded by Ms. Valerie Brown. The motion was unanimously approved. No other questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chairman Patrick Reynolds declared March 2020 Treasurer's Report filed for audit.

**INVOICES:**

All of the invoices were approved budgeted invoices

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright provided a COVID-19 update advising CED is open and fully functioning and that the employees are teleworking with occasional visits to the office. He noted that Kerstin Plarr has done an outstanding job keeping the CED website updated with the Federal and State resources currently available to help Chesapeake businesses. Mr. Wright updated that Casey Gilchrist will continue with the CED podcasts to communicate what CED is doing about the tremendous impact the COVID-19 virus has had – the most recent one was with Mayor West. Mr. Wright also updated that in an effort to reach out to local businesses, CED will be rolling out Chesapeake Biz Chat. This is a new way for businesses to contact CED. Mr. Wright announced that the Business Appreciation Golf Tournament has been rescheduled to June 26, 2020, however, CED is prepared to push it to this Fall if necessary. Mr. Wright updated the EDAC Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and will be conducted via ZOOM – he encouraged EDA members to register and attend stating Chris Price, City Manager, is the main speaker in addition to Joey Barnes, SVP Small Business Loan Officer Virginia Community Capital, and Jim Carroll, Executive Director Small Business Development Center, Hampton Roads Region. Mr. Steven Wright stated he is still seeing activity and CED will continue to aggressively pursue it.

**OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER – UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright updated the purchase offer for Lot #25 has been rescinded and the deposit will be returned. Mr. Tim Howlett updated Black Water Electric has a first right of refusal.

**GREENBRIER NORTH COMMERCE PARK (SEVTC) – UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright updated Big Belly closed in early March and the second Givens project is moving along and will close out Greenbrier North Commerce Park. Mr. Steven Wright stated Greenbrier North Commerce Park took seven (7) years from purchase to total completion.

**WESTERN BRANCH UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright referenced the Governor’s announcement regarding the Amazon facility which will occupy 650,000 square feet on Portsmouth Boulevard with a second facility in Suffolk. Mr. Wright noted that both facilities will be good for Chesapeake because of the increased activity that will be generated on the West and East sides of Portsmouth Boulevard. Mr. Wright reported construction is well underway and the Kotarides are aggressively moving on developing the property. Mr. Wright noted the project would not have happened without the City’s investment in Portsmouth Boulevard which was the catalyst.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no committee reports.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution for EDIP Grant for TFR - Mr. Steven Wright advised TFR will be developing 42,000 square feet of industrial space creating 68 jobs with an average salary of \$48,000.00. Ms. Teresa Peters made a motion; seconded by Kevin Cosgrove to approve an EDIP Grant for TFR. The motion was unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Jim Pickrell, EDA Attorney 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 prospective business or expansion of an existing business where no previous public announcement has been made of the business’ interest in locating or expanding in the City of Chesapeake, Virginia.

Clause 6, discussion of consideration of investment of public funds where competition is involved where if made public initially the financial position of the EDA would be adversely affected.

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

Mr. Arthur Robinson made a motion; seconded by Ms. Dawn Matheson, to leave the Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

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



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Steven C. Wright  
Executive Secretary

Minutes provided by Jude Jackson