

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, July 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; Bradley Brickhouse, Secretary; Vonda W. Chappell, Member; Tonya Gill, Member; Michael Malone, Member; Luis Jimenez, Member

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** 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; Kerstin Plarr; Curtis Cobert; Constantia Cobert; Austin Bussey; Jude Jackson; Molly Ruffin, Summer Intern

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; George Hoddinott, Planning Department; Catarina Johnson, Sr. Executive Director, YMCA

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S):**

Ms. Molly Ruffin, CED Summer Intern, delivered an insightful PowerPoint presentation on the critical role of social media marketing. She highlighted that 64% of people discover new businesses, both large and small, through the internet, underscoring the necessity for businesses to establish a strong social media presence. Ms. Ruffin discussed various facets of the online digital landscape, emphasizing strategies that businesses can employ to effectively reach both target and niche markets.

Mr. George Hoddinott from the Planning Department presented a Façade Grant for the South Norfolk business, ForKids, in the Norfolk overlay district. The grant will be used to update signage and landscaping in the amount of \$14,544.00. After a short question and answer period, Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion to approve the façade grant application as presented for ForKids; seconded by Ms. Vonda Chappell. The motion was approved on a majority vote with one nay vote.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

After a review of the June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Ms. Dawn Matheson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone to accept the minutes as amended from the June 20, 2024 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Ms. Constantia Cobert presented the treasurer’s report for June 2024. No questions or concerns were expressed; therefore, Chair Kevin Cosgrove declared June 2024, Treasurer’s Report filed for audit. Ms. Constantia Cobert reviewed the FY2025 Proposed Operational Budget as presented and explained several line-items in detail. The Budget Committee made a motion to accept the FY2025 Proposed Operational Budget; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone. The motion passed unanimously.

**INVOICES:**

All the invoices were approved budgeted invoices.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:**

Mr. Steven Wright expressed his gratitude to the Authority members who attended the LS GreenLink announcement event at the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Regional Building last week. The event was truly remarkable, and the significance of the LS GreenLink project cannot be overstated.

The LS GreenLink project, supported by Governor Youngkin, is poised to have a profound impact on our Community, City, and Region for decades. Mr. Wright showcased a PowerPoint presentation depicting the envisioned facility on the riverfront site. As a subsidiary of the South Korean company LS Cable & System, a leading submarine cable manufacturer, LS GreenLink’s investment has already reached \$681 million, generating over 300 new jobs. This represents the largest capital investment in the history of our City and the greatest one-time investment in the Region.

This monumental project is a source of immense pride for us all. We were honored to have Governor Youngkin present, along with Secretary of Commerce and Trade Ms. Karen Merritt. The event was well-attended by most of our City Council members, regional organizations, VEDP, members of our General Assembly, and representatives from both houses of the US Senate. The strong turnout underscored the importance of this project for Chesapeake. Mr. Wright advised we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Authority to further advance this significant endeavor.


**THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:**

Mr. Steven Wright provided an update on the site progress, noting that all water and sewer lines have been successfully installed. The current focus is on completing the final tasks to fully operationalize the pump station. Additionally, CED’s is prioritizing the installation of a security fence to ensure the property is well-protected.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- **New York Bagel Company – Ribbon Cutting**
  - June 21, 2024 at 9:00 am to 9:30 am - 200 Battlefield Blvd North
- **HR Chamber 2024 Small Business of the Year Awards Ceremony & Luncheon**
  - June 21, 2024 at 12 noon - Delta Hotel 725 Woodlake Drive
- **Better Way Realty – Ribbon Cutting**
  - June 22, 2024 at 12:00 to 2:00 pm – 701 Greenbrier Parkway, 23320
- **Cornland School – Ribbon Cutting**
  - June 28, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm 5221 Glencoe Street, 23322

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



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Steven C. Wright  
Executive Secretary

Minutes provided by Jude Jackson