

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE
THURSDAY,
November 21, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, November 21, 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; Bradley Brickhouse, Secretary; Luis Jimenez, Member; Tonya Gill, Member; Michael Malone, Member; Jeffrey Ganthner, Member; Kristi Wooten, Member

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Dawn Matheson, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT: Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary

COUNSEL PRESENT: John Sawyer, WRG PC, EDA Counsel

CED STAFF PRESENT: Preston Wilhelm; Edie Saecker; Sherry Barnette; Tim Howlett; Kerstin Plarr; Curtis Cobert; Austin Bussey; Constantia Cobert; Jude Jackson; Zamy Darthard, Summer Intern

GUESTS PRESENT: Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; Ben White, Chesapeake City Treasurer; Laura Hardin, Director with Cherry Bekaert

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Cosgrove, Chair, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order. Mr. Michael Malone made a motion to adopt the Draft Agenda; seconded by Ms. Kristi Wooten. The motion was unanimously approved.

AUDIT:

Cherry Bekaert, LLP presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Audit of Financial Statements. The results indicated a clean audit opinion with no internal control deficiencies noted. Ms. Laura Harden, Director with Cherry Bekaert thanked Ms. Edie Saecker for her assistance with the audit.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Ms. Zamy Darthard, CED Fall Intern, delivered an insightful PowerPoint presentation on the resources provided to Chesapeake's small businesses by Chesapeake Economic Development (CED). She emphasized that small businesses are the heartbeat of a community, offering jobs, products, and revenue while setting themselves apart from larger companies by delivering a personalized customer experience often absent in larger corporations. Ms. Darthard highlighted that 93.31% of businesses in Chesapeake are classified as small businesses, illustrating the significant role they play in the City's economy and community. She concluded by underscoring the big impact small businesses make in fostering local growth and prosperity.

MEETING MINUTES:

After a review of the October 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Ms. Julie Anderson made a motion to approve the Minutes; seconded by Mr. Michael Malone. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Ms. Edie Saecker presented the Treasurer’s Report for November 2024. No questions or concerns were expressed; Chair Kevin Cosgrove declared November 2024, Treasurer’s Report filed for audit.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that Chesapeake Economic Development (CED) hosted the Virginia Legislative Delegation for the annual Legislative Breakfast, which was attended by Mr. Preston Wilhelm. Mr. Wilhelm shared that the event brought together Federal, State, and local elected representatives to engage in high-level discussions about the City's legislative package. Topics included key projects such as the LS GreenLink project, Coastal Virginia Commerce Park, and Summit Pointe. The event was also attended by City Manager Chris Price, Mayor Rick West, and several members of Chesapeake City Council.

Ms. Kerstin Plarr reported on the success of the 3rd Annual Worlds of Work (WOW) event, recently held at the Chesapeake Conference Center. This interactive career fair provided every 8th-grade student in the City of Chesapeake with hands-on opportunities to explore careers within the region's most in-demand industries. This year, the event was expanded to include several schools from the City of Portsmouth, further broadening its impact. Over 60 regional and local businesses partnered with the City to deliver immersive, professional experiences, allowing students to gain practical insights into various industries. Ms. Plarr emphasized the importance of the event in helping students make informed decisions about their future careers while showcasing the region's diverse workforce opportunities.

Mr. Austin Bussey provided a recap of several ribbon-cutting ceremonies held throughout the City over the past month. He highlighted the following businesses:

- **WineStyles:** A unique retail and wine-tasting experience offering a curated selection of wines and related products.
- **Venture X:** A modern coworking space that supports businesses and entrepreneurs by providing flexible office solutions and a collaborative environment.
- **Main Stays Hotel:** A newly developed hotel catering to both short-term and extended-stay guests, enhancing the city’s hospitality offerings.
- **STG (Security Technology Group):** A company specializing in innovative solutions and services, contributing to the City’s economic and technological growth.

These ribbon-cuttings reflect the continued growth and diversification of Chesapeake’s business community.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Mr. Steven Wright recognized Mr. Curtis Cobert for completing the 2024 Lead Hampton Roads program, hosted by the local Hampton Roads Chamber. This program focuses on leadership development and community engagement within the Hampton Roads region.

Mr. Wright also recognized Ms. Sherry Barnette for graduating from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute's comprehensive 3-year program which is very rigorous and detailed covering all facets of economic development.

THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that Ramey Racing has closed on 1.71 acres on Yupo Court. Mr. Wright also reported the Project Flavor contract has been signed and should close on 13 acres of the property in mid-2025.

OLD BUSINESSES:

Mr. Michael Malone made a motion to approve the Resolution and Addendum to the Standard Calibration, Inc., Development Agreement; seconded by Ms. Tonya Gill. The motion was passed unanimously with one abstention.

Mr. Preston Wilhelm provided a status update on Total Fiber Recovery (TFR). The Authority agreed to send a letter advising TFR the proffered EDIP grant is no longer available because the conditions of the agreement have not been met.

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 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); all as permitted by Sections 2.2-3711(A) (3) of the Code of Virginia.

Mr. Jeffrey Ganthner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kristi Wooten, 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. A motion to leave the Executive Session was made by Mr. Michael Malone, seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Ganthner. The certification was approved, and the Executive Session was closed by Vice Chair Julie Anderson unanimously via a roll call vote.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- **Ally Urgent Veterinary Care – Ribbon Cutting**
 - November 21, 2024 – 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
 - 228 Mount Pleasant Rd, 23322
- **The Sweet Spot at Summit Point – Ribbon Cutting**
 - December 17, 2024 – 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 - 660 Belaire Avenue

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Jeffrey Ganthner 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