

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE
THURSDAY,
December 19, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 2:00 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; Luis Jimenez, Member; Tonya Gill, Member; Michael Malone, Member; Kristi Wooten, 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; Edie Saecker; Sherry Barnette; Tim Howlett; Kerstin Plarr; Austin Bussey

GUESTS PRESENT: Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; Ben White, Chesapeake City Treasurer; George Hoddinott, Planning Department; Craig Palmore w/Trust Financing Solutions

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.

MEETING MINUTES:

After a review of the November 21, 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) has been actively supporting the City's small businesses and recently participated in an event hosted by *Veer*, a Hampton Roads entertainment publication. Each year, *Veer* honors the best breweries in the region, and this year's *Veer Beer Awards* event was held at Big Ugly Brewing in Chesapeake. Mr. Wright shared that he, along with Ms. Kerstin Plarr and Mayor Rick West, attended the event, where Ms. Plarr had the honor of presenting the Golden Tap award to Big Ugly Brewing for the *Best Beer in Hampton Roads* for the second consecutive year.

Mr. Steven Wright reported on attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Sweet Spot, a new business in Chesapeake. The event was well-attended, including several prominent influencers, showcasing the excitement surrounding this new addition to Summit Pointe. Mr. Wright noted that the team behind Sweet Spot has done an exceptional job with the build-out of the space. While the ribbon-cutting marked a celebratory milestone, Sweet Spot is set to officially open its doors to the public on February 1, 2025.

Mr. Steven Wright reported on the progress being made on the LS GreenLink project and what they will be developing in Chesapeake. Mr. Wright reported a significant milestone for the project was reached last month when LS GreenLink received FAA approval and the necessary permits for the construction of a tower approximately 660 feet tall. They are currently waiting for the approval and permits to use a 700-foot crane to build the tower. Mr. Wright also announced the formal groundbreaking ceremony for the project has been scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2025. The event will take place on-site, with dignitaries from the U.S. and South Korea, expected to attend. While the exact time is yet to be determined, the groundbreaking underscores the significance of this international investment in Chesapeake.

Additionally, Mr. Wright highlighted Patrick Shim, representing LS GreenLink, who has been actively engaging with the local community was recently recognized in *Virginia Business* as one of the top 100 people to meet across the State, further emphasizing LS GreenLink's commitment to becoming a valued member of the Chesapeake community.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mr. George Hoddinott from the Chesapeake Planning Department presented a South Norfolk Façade Improvement Grant application for 710 Liberty Street. The grant, in the amount of \$6,206.00, will fund the removal of a low nuisance wall and its replacement with landscaping. This is the first application received from the South Norfolk Business District under this program. Mr. Hoddinott explained that the façade grant program covers stand-alone landscaping visible from the road, exterior façade improvements, and signage. Ms. Dawn Mattheson made a motion to approve the South Norfolk Façade Grant for 710 Liberty Street as presented to the Authority: seconded by Mr. Luis Jimenez. 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 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.

Ms. Julie Anderson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dawn Matheson, 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. The certification was approved, and the Executive Session was closed by Chair Kevin Cosgrove unanimously via a roll call vote.

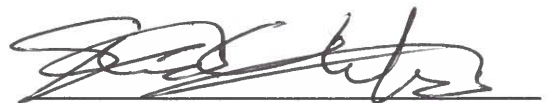
FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- **HRACRE 2025 Economic Forecast**
 - Jan 21, 2025 at 12:00 pm - The Westin 4535 Commerce St, Virginia Beach, 23462
- **2025 Annual Economic Forecast with Mark Vitner at ODU**
 - Jan 29, 2025 from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Chartway Arena, Big Blue Room
- **EDAC Meeting – Black Business Panel Discussion**
 - February 14, 2025 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Chair Kevin Cosgrove acknowledged this was Mr. Michael Malone's last meeting as he has accepted an appointment to the Planning Commission. Chair Cosgrove and the Authority members thanked Mr. Malone for his years of service and wished him well.

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.



Steven C. Wright
Executive Secretary