

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE**

**THURSDAY,
September 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Summit Pointe, 555 Belaire Avenue, Suite 310, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Anderson, Chair; Tonya Gill, Vice Chair; Troy Lindsey, Treasurer/Assist. Secretary; Kristi Wooten, Secretary; Kevin Cosgrove, Member; Luis Jimenez, Member; Jeffrey Ganthner, Member; Bert Ortiz, Member; Gregg Kruer, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary

COUNSEL PRESENT: John Sawyer, WRG PC, EDA Counsel

CED STAFF PRESENT: Tim Howlett; Edie Saecker; Kerstin Plarr; Constantia Cobert; Austin Bussey; Jude Jackson; Trinity Smith

GUESTS PRESENT: Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; Jolie Spears, Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center; Todd DeRose, Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center; Gretchen Heal, Hampton Roads Chamber; Ambakisye Bolden, Small Business Administration; John Harbin, Chesapeake Land Bank Authority; Cory McCoy, Oasis Health

CALL TO ORDER:

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. Steven Wright introduced and welcomed the newly appointed EDA members, Mr. Bert Ortiz of AVMAC and Mr. Gregg Kruer of Prism Maritime. Mr. Wright shared brief background information on each, highlighting their extensive experience and contributions to the business community, and expressed appreciation for their willingness to serve on the Authority.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Ms. Jolie Spears from the Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provided an update on the Center's activities. The SBDC team consists of business and technical experts offering free, confidential advising to small businesses at all stages and across all industries. These services are made possible through local financial support from 16 Hampton Roads localities matched by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Ms. Spears noted that the goal is to equip small business owners with the knowledge and tools needed for success, recognizing that small businesses are key economic drivers and community builders. She outlined the wide range of services offered, including assistance with accounting setup, loan and grant applications, business planning, marketing, and customer management tools. Ms. Kerstin Plarr praised the SBDC partnership, noting its vital role in supporting Chesapeake's small business initiatives and the City's small business program. Ms. Spears closed by thanking the EDA for its continued funding and confidence, affirming that their support is making a real difference in the community.

MEETING MINUTES:

After a review of the August 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes, Mr. Kevin Cosgrove made a motion to approve the Minutes; seconded by Ms. Tonya Gill. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER REPORT:

Ms. Edie Saecker presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2025. No questions or concerns were expressed; Chair Julie Anderson declared August 2025, Treasurer's Report filed for audit.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that the monthly EDAC meetings have resumed and the most recent meeting on September 12, 2025 was at the Schools Administration building. The meeting featured a panel discussion about workforce development. The next EDAC meeting on October 10, 2025 will feature manufacturing. A check in the amount of \$13,630.00 was presented to Dr. Jared Cotton, representing the proceeds from the 25th Annual Golf Classic. The funds will be donated to the Jared Cotton Scholarship Fund at the Chesapeake Public Schools Education Foundation, which supports students pursuing careers in skilled trades.

The CED staff participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the South Norfolk Municipal building. This project has been years in the making and marks a significant milestone for both the City and the South Norfolk community. The new Municipal Center will serve as a "mini City Hall," providing convenient access to essential city services for residents in that area. The building will be completed in the next few years and will be an important part of that community and will really strengthen and enhance some of the recent investments that have been made in South Norfolk both on the public and private side.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE cont.:

Mr. Steven Wright also highlighted several recent events attended by CED staff, noting their continued engagement with the local business community. These included the anniversary celebration of Coastal Virginia Wealth, a growing company that has expanded from four or five employees to eighteen within one year, and the ribbon cutting for RFK Solutions, a Western Branch-based firm that recently opened a new office located in South Norfolk.

THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that the plat for Project Flavor has been approved and accepted by all parties. He noted that Project Flavor still has the option to extend the due diligence period for up to 60 days. Following discussion, Ms. Kristi Wooten made a motion to approve the requested changes to the Second Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement; seconded by Mr. Luis Jimenez. The motion was unanimously approved.

OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that the department is anticipating closings with COVA Insurance on parcel 13B and with SCI for the residual land behind their facility prior to the next EDA meeting. He also advised that staff continue to monitor the contract and associated milestones for the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Jones Printing. Additionally, Mr. Wright noted that there have been recent discussions with an existing Chesapeake company interested in purchasing the remaining parcels in Oakbrooke; however, a drainage issue is currently being evaluated by the City and a local engineering firm to determine potential solutions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

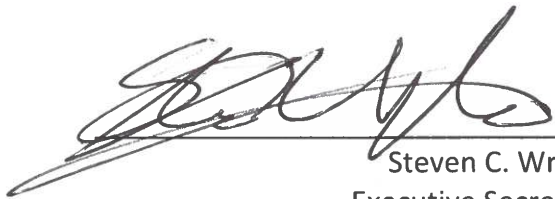
Mr. John Sawyer, EDA Counsel, stated the EDA may wish to consider a motion to conduct a closed meeting for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect 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. Chair Julie Anderson called for a vote to go into the Executive Session which was unanimously agreed to.

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 unanimously and the Executive Session closed by Chair Julie Anderson via roll call vote.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **October 7, 2025 - HR State of the Region from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm**
 - Norfolk Waterside Marriott – 235 E. Main Street
- **October 10, 2025 – EDAC Manufacturing Month**
 - 8:00 am to 10:am – Plasser American
- **October 11, 2025 (Saturday) – 16th Annual Chesapeake Wine Festival**
 - 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Chesapeake City Park
- **October 21, 2025 – State of Transit**
 - 8:30 am to 11:00 am – Hampton Convention Center
- **October 21 & 22, 2025 – Chesapeake World of Works**
 - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – Chesapeake Conference Center
- **October 29, 2025 - HR Alliance Playbook**
 - 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm – Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Kevin Cosgrove made a motion to adjourn; no second being needed, it was the consensus to adjourn the meeting.



Steven C. Wright
Executive Secretary