

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

**THURSDAY,
January 15, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Chesapeake was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Chesapeake Economic Development, 555 Belaire Avenue, Suite 310, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Anderson, Chair; Tonya Gill, Vice Chair – virtual; Troy Lindsey, Treasurer - virtual; Kristi Wooten, Secretary; Luis Jimenez, Member; Jeffrey Ganthner, Member; Gregg Kruer, Member; Bert Ortiz, Member – virtual

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Steven C. Wright, Executive Secretary

COUNSEL PRESENT: John Sawyer, WRG PC, EDA Counsel – virtual

CED STAFF PRESENT: Preston Wilhelm; Sherry Barnette; Tim Howlett; Edie Saecker; Kerstin Plarr; Constantia Cobert; Michael Barnett; Sunny Golston

GUESTS PRESENT: Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager; Catherine Lindley, City Attorney; Toi Hunter, HR Alliance; Dan Shelton, Whiting Turner

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MEETING MINUTES:

After a review of the December 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes, Mr. Jeffrey Ganthner made a motion to approve the Minutes; seconded by Mr. Bert Ortiz. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that the City recently completed a six-part Government Contract Training Series for Chesapeake's small business community, with a particular focus on supporting the local defense industry. The sessions were well attended and received. Mr. Wright recognized Ms. Kerstin Plarr for her excellent work in organizing and coordinating the series. He also noted that the program featured an outstanding presenter, Ms. Hilary Boyce, and that several EDA Board members were in attendance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE cont.:

Mr. Wright also reported on the small VA Clinic facility located on property adjacent to the former Chesapeake Square Mall, which was previously acquired by the EDA and sold to a North Carolina-based developer. The project has now reached substantial completion, and the developer anticipates receiving the final Certificate of Occupancy and beginning clinic operations within the next 60–90 days. This represents an important milestone for the City and will enhance access to services for the community.

Mr. Wright further reported that the City has undertaken a major capital initiative to expand broadband access citywide. As part of a regional effort, South Hampton Roads localities collaborated to construct a broadband ring. During that process, it became evident that several neighboring cities had more robust internal broadband infrastructure than Chesapeake. In response, the City launched the Chesapeake Connects program, which involves installing dark fiber throughout the City. The project is anticipated to be completed in March 2026. This critical infrastructure investment will help extend broadband access to underserved and outlying areas and enable multiple service providers to operate within the City. Increased competition is expected to improve service availability and reduce costs for Chesapeake residents.

THREE OAKS AT GREENBRIER COMMERCE PARK:

Ms. Sherry Barnette reported that Professional Printing has begun construction on a 2-acre parcel. The project represents an expansion of their existing operation located directly across the street and will include a new state-of-the-art facility. Ms. Barnette also reported that Ramey Racing, a manufacturer of high-performance engines for race cars and other specialty vehicles, is also under construction. They are developing a parcel of approximately one acre.

OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER:

Mr. Steven Wright reported that staff is continuing efforts to gain a comprehensive understanding of the requirements associated with relocating the drainage easement located between Parcels 12 and 13. The team has been in discussions with the Chesapeake Development and Permits Department and has received authorization to proceed to the next phase, which involves conducting a more detailed analysis of the relocation requirements. At this time, a consultant has not yet been engaged. Staff is working to obtain a cost estimate for the analysis so that it can be presented alongside the existing construction cost estimate to the Authority for consideration.

Ms. Sherry Barnette reported that, despite extensive discussions with Jones Printing, the company missed a key project milestone. The building permit application, which was due to be submitted by December 18, 2025, has not yet been filed. Ms. Barnette noted that she and Mr. Tim Howlett have been working closely with the company to obtain a comprehensive update on the current status and overall scope of the project. A progress update will be provided at the next EDA meeting.

OAKBROOKE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER cont.:

Mr. Wright reported that several years ago the Authority sold property to a North Carolina developer for the construction of an office building; however, the site remained vacant for an extended period. The property was later acquired by a church and subsequently sold to another church which has now completed the building and is holding services. Mr. Wright advised that the western portion of the site has not been fully utilized and staff plans to contact the church to determine if there may be any interest in selling that section.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Steven Wright, EDA Executive Secretary, stated the EDA may wish to consider a motion to conduct a closed meeting for discussion or consideration of the acquisition or disposition 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); specifically 1.) the disposition of publicly held real property as well as consultation with legal counsel regarding that potential sale of real property all as permitted by Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3), and (A)(6) of the Code of Virginia. Chair Julie Anderson called for a vote to go into the Executive Session. Mr. Luis Jimenez made a motion to go into Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Kristi Wooten. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Steven Wright, EDA Executive Secretary, 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

- **January 24, 2026 – Chesapeake Regional Healthcare 50 Years - Golden Gala**
 - 6:00 pm – Chesapeake Conference Center
- **January 28, 2026 – ODU 2026 Annual Economic Forecast**
 - 11:30 am (registration to 2:00 pm at Chartway Arena's Big Blue
- **February 2, 2026 – Statement of Economic Interest DUE – *signature must be handwritten***
 - **\$250 late filing penalty**

NOTE: PLEASE USE THE ATTACHED FORM. OUTDATED FORMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Kristi Wooten made a motion to adjourn; no second being needed, it was the consensus to adjourn the meeting.



Steven C. Wright
Executive Secretary