



City of Petersburg

Economic Development Authority Meeting

Regular Meeting

Minutes

June 17, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order – Mr. Samuel Rhue, Chairman
2. Roll call of Board Members

Board Members Present

Samuel Rhue, Chairman

Mike Packer, Vice Chair

Richard Taylor, Treasurer

Dr. Ahkinyala Abdullah

Dr. Lafayette Jefferson

Winston Saunders

Joel Erb

City of Petersburg Staff Present

Kennett Miller, Intern City Manager

Jeremy Tennant, Assistant to the City Manager- Planning and Economic
Development

Cynthia Boone, Administrative Assistant

Clay Mansell, Economic Development Fellow

3. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
4. Moment of Silence
5. Reports/responses to previous public information period

There were no reports.

6. Approval of the Minutes- May 20, 2021

Mr. Rhue moved that the meeting minutes be approved.

7. Financial Report- Mr. Richard, Taylor Secretary /Treasurer

Mr. Taylor reported that the total balance was \$106,026.04. They made \$.085 in interest and the \$4 was refunded to the account for the service fee. The next month statement will reflect a check that was written during the month for the law firm that represents the EDA in the amount of \$1200.00.

Motion: Mr. Packer moved, second by Mr. Saunders second to approve the financial report subject to audit. **Upon vote by those present, the motion was unanimously carried.**

8. Report from the Chairman- Mr. Samuel Rhue

Mr. Rhue stated he had the opportunity to meet with former governor Terry McAuliffe who is a democratic nominee for the State of Virginia. Mr. Rhue discussed with him Petersburg being left out of the Tobacco Fund.

Mr. Rhue stated how he and Mr. Packer has been meeting with the Intern City Manager, Mayor Parham and Councilman Cuthbert to discuss concerns the EDA have to include filing of the Economic Development Director position, issues around the Tobacco Fund, the rezoning of the old Southside Regional Hospital Site and funding of the Revolving Loan Fund. These meetings are a good way for the EDA and the City to communicate concerns.

9. New Business –

a. Go Virginia Site Development Grant – Virginia Gateway Region

Keith Boswell, President/CEO and Ajay Sujamani, Chief Operating Officer discussed the Go Virginia Gateway Grant and how this grant will assist the region in marketing specific sites. There were 15 sites identified for the grant. Of the 15, there are 11 in Gateway Region 4, and 4 properties that are in Petersburg, VA. The purpose of the grant is to move properties from their current tier to Tier Level 4 which means that they have done all the studies and have zoned it properly to assist a company/developer to be able to come in and begin their project or open their business. In the past 5 years, Virginia Gateway Region estimates losing capital investment worth over \$1.27 billion from outside Virginia prospects due to our sites in Region 4 were not ready to meet parameters and timelines of the prospect's project. The grant was approved on June 16, 2021, in the amount of \$1.6 million with a 2-1 match from Prince George and Greensville County.

b. Poor Creek- Andrew Barnes, City Engineer-City of Petersburg

Mr. Barnes discussed the current capacity issues for the Poor Creek Sewer Line and the areas it service. He explained how the City will be partnering with the Timmons Group to conduct some testing on the pipelines to determine if or how they lines can be repaired. They are currently working on securing state funds and are exploring other ways of securing funds or revenue to address fund the repairs or upgrades to the site for future development.

Old Business –

c. SCWWA Access Road Update- Robert Wilson, Robert Wilson, Executive Director ARWA/SCWWA.

Mr. Wilson discussed how the SCWWA have performed a preliminary survey, preliminary alignment, and the archeological study of 130 Pocahontas St. He stated how during the archaeological study they did not find any grave shafts or significant artifacts. The preliminary plans include layout of the road, location of sidewalk, bike path and other elements. He gave an overview of the next steps to the project. The plan is to have it advertised by January 2022. He requested that the EDA provide him the number of curb cuts to include in the site plan prior to posting the project in January 2022.

- d. Revolving Loan – Mr. Rhue stated that we during the May 20, 2021 meeting that it was agreed to research the revolving loan fund. As part of that the EDA asked to create a subcommittee to work on the details of the fund. Mr. Rhue appointed Mr. Packer and Dr. Abdullah to this committee.
- e. Economic Development Report - Jeremy Tennant, Assistant to the City Manager

Mr. Tennant provided the following updates:

1. The Dredging of the Harbor funding did not get approved. The Poor Creek/Pharma Park Upgrade received funding however it was not the requested amount. Staff has been informed by the Congressman McEachin's staff that the committee will fund roughly \$3 million of a portion of the project.
2. There were 18 business licenses received for the month of May.
3. Mayor Parham made a proclamation that June 17, 2021, was Ampac Day. Ampac and Civica hosted an event at their site to celebrate the employees. As part of this event, they donated a

check to Pleasant Lane Elementary School in the amount of \$50,000 to rebuild their playground.

4. Staff changes for the City: Ms. Darnetta Tyus and Mr. Lionel Lyons is no longer with the City. Mr. Turrille, the new City Manager was formally introduced on May 28 and will officially start on July 1.

Mr. Packer asked about the meetings resuming to in person. It was agreed by the board to continue to meet virtually and explore in person for September.

10. Business or reports from the Vice Chairman or other members of the EDA Board

No reports from the Board

11. Public Comments Period

No public Comments

12. Announcements -

- a. Next meeting date – July 15, 2021

Mr. Rhue thanked Mr. Miller, Intern City Manager for attending the meeting.

13. Adjournment