

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

August 22, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Angelia Allen – Chair
Ronald Peterman – Vice Chair
Benjamin Foster
Roniqua Jackson

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kyera Pope – Finance
Thomas Cross – Port of Virginia
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison

GUEST:

Janey Culpepper – City Assessor
Whitney Lester – Hampton Roads Workforce Council
Jackie Rondeau – Hampton Roads Workforce Council

ABSENT:

Arnett McSwain – Treasurer
Sarah Rogers Garner
Peter Hansen
Flora Berisha – Finance
Mimi Terry – Interim City Manager
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
De’Andre Barnes – City Council Liaison

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

- Mr. Donahue called roll. A quorum was present.

Minutes

- The minutes from the June 27, 2023, Regular Minutes were reviewed. Chair Allen noted a required modification to the Minutes as presented.

Action: On a motion by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Foster, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the June 27, 2023, Regular Minutes as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - absent; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Hansen - absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson - yes; Ms. Allen-yes. Approved 4-0 vote.

Financials

- Ms. Pope reviewed the PPIC’s Quarterly Financial Report for the Fiscal Year end June 30, 2023.

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:**

Mr. Thomas Cross of the Port of Virginia provided an update on the Port's activities. Improvements to the Portsmouth Marine Terminal are approximately 40% complete to support Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project. Wind turbine components are scheduled to begin arriving in October. Construction of terminal improvements at Norfolk International Terminal is underway. The Central Railyard project will provide additional capacity to port operations. The Port of Virginia has recently been named the second most efficient port in North America.

- **STARBASE Victory:**

Mr. Donahue presented a grant funding request from STARBASE Victory program in the amount of \$50,000 to provide funding support for the expansion of STEM program offerings within the Portsmouth Public Schools.

Action: On a motion by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Foster, the Commissioners approved the grant funding request from STARBASE Victory in the amount of \$50,000.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - absent; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Hansen - absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson - yes; Ms. Allen-yes. Approved 4-0 vote.

New Business

- **Hampton Roads Workforce Council Briefing:**

Mr. Whitney Lester, Senior Director of Talent Development and Mrs. Jacqueline Rondeau, Employment Engagement Manager with the Hampton Roads Workforce Council provided an overview of the Workforce Council's programs and services. There was discussion on the development of a talent pipeline to serve the region's industry employment demands.

- **3920, 3930 Burtons Point Rd.:**

Mr. Donahue provided an update on planning activities for future development opportunities. Conceptual site layouts were presented that provided designs for accommodating industrial buildings on the properties.

- **NNSY South Gate Annex Update:**

Mr. Donahue updated the board on the areas within the Norfolk Naval Shipyard's South Gate Annex that may be available for future economic development purposes. The Navy has identified an 3.5 acre portion of the property that is being considered for potential utilization for industrial activities. The Commissioners expressed a desire to tour the site.

Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting.

Open Meeting

Items Submitted by Commissioners

There were no items submitted by Commissioners.

Report Backs

- **Waterfront Port & Industrial Sites Tour:**

Mr. Donahue advised the Commissioners of the planned PPIC Waterfront Port & Industrial Sites Tour scheduled for September 26, 2023.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Angelia Allen
Chair