

Economic Development Authority of the City of Portsmouth
August 16, 2022
9:00 AM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ray A. Smith, Sr. – Chairman
Malcom Mitchell -Vice Chairman
Bette "Cathy" Drewry
Theresa J. Saunders-Smith
Neal J. Barber
Anthony Brown

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Donahue - Secretary
Pam Croom – Assistant Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa - Assistant City Attorney
Patti Phillips - Finance
Mimi Terry – Deputy City Manager
Paul Battle – Council Liaison
Alisa Winston – PRHA

ABSENT:

Barbara Smith

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Roll Call

- Mr. Donahue called the roll. There was a quorum.

Minutes

- The minutes from the June 27, 2022, Regular Meeting were presented.
- Brian Donahue introduced new Portsmouth Economic Development team members Aimee Tracy and Edie Frazier.
- **ACTION:** On a motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Saunders-Smith, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the June 27, 2022, Regular Meeting as

presented. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber - yes; Ms. Drewry - yes; Mr. Mitchell - yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith - yes; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Brown - yes.

Financials

- Patti Phillips reviewed the June 2022 financial statements. It was agreed that June 2022 statements would be filed for audit.

Old Business

- Mr. Donahue reviewed the status of the RFP for Commercial Real Estate Services on behalf of EDA, which is nearing finalization.
- Mr. Donahue gave an update on the 2022 Business Incentive Grant Program.

New Business

- Pam Croom presented an annual update for Portsmouth@Work, provided year-end data for FY22 and reviewed new programming for FY23. Inquiries from board members included program pass rates, funding, advertising and capacity limits, referral procedures for students that do not qualify for a specific program, and the addition of specialized training programs.

Closed Meeting

ACTION: At 10:09 a.m. Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Barber, moved to go into a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Subsection 2.2-3711 A.3 for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically regarding opportunity acquisitions, 710 Lincoln St, and establishing purchase prices. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber - yes; Ms. Drewry - yes; Mr. Mitchell - yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith - yes; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Brown - yes.

ACTION: At 11:01 a.m. Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Barber, moved that each Commissioner certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting just concluded. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber - yes; Ms. Drewry - yes; Mr. Mitchell - yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith - yes; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Brown - yes.

Open Meeting

Items submitted by Commissioners:

- Mr. Mitchell requested that the EDA property listing report be updated to include a category for permitted uses.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the possibility of performing a market study for commercial uses in the downtown area.
- Mr. Mitchell asked about the possibility of creating electric vehicle charging stations at Rivers Casino.
- Mr. Mitchell suggested ways that the EDA can provide support for City crime fighting initiatives.
- Ms. Drewry inquired about the plans for the Port Norfolk community center.

Report Backs:

- Mr. Donahue thanked the EDA members who attended the Holley Pointe ribbon cutting on August 11, 2022.
- Mr. Donahue announced that Rivers Casino would be holding an open house on August 16, 2022.
- Mr. Donahue stated that Benchmark Consulting will be briefing the EDA on the City's Innovation District planning process at its September 20, 2022 meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Donahue, Secretary