

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

February 25, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ronald Peterman – Vice Chair
Arnette McSwain – Treasurer - 9:07am
Benjamin Foster – Commissioner
Keith Rice – Commissioner
Edward Barham, III – Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison
Steven Carter – City Manager

GUESTS: Steven Edwards – City Assessor
Dorothy Morgan – Deputy City Assessor

ABSENT: Angelia Allen – Chair
Peter Hansen – Commissioner
Kyera Pope – Finance
Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia
Dr. William Dodson – City Council Liaison

Welcome & Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Minutes

- The minutes from the January 28, 2025, Regular Minutes were presented and adopted.

Action: On a motion by Mr. Barham and seconded by Mr. Foster, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the January 28, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - absent; Mr. Hansen - absent; Ms. Allen - absent; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 4-0 vote.

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:** There was no update provided.
- **0 Sixth St., 1603 Seventh Street:** Mr. Donahue reported that the property at 0 Sixth St. and 1603 Seventh Street is in the process of being transferred from the PRHA to the PPIC. Mr. Donahue estimated that the transfer will be completed in the next few weeks.
- **FY26 PPIC Budget Committee:** Mr. Rice and Ms. McSwain were named to serve as the members of the FY26 PPIC Budget Committee.
- **PPIC Annual Retreat:** The Commissioners determined that the PPIC Annual Retreat will be held on April 22, 2025, immediately following the scheduled regular monthly meeting. Discussion for the PPIC Annual Retreat topics will be added to the March meeting agenda.
- **City Council/PPIC Joint Meeting – July 7, 2025:** Mr. Donahue reported that the City Council and City Manager have requested a joint meeting to be held with the PPIC. Mr. Steven Carter, City Manager, recommended that the PPIC designate its priorities in advance of the meeting with City Council to support a productive discussion. Mr. Hugel, City Council Liaison, reported that the meeting will be held on July 7, 2025, at 5:30pm to foster collaboration with City Council and the City's Boards & Commissions.

New Business

- Mr. Donahue introduced the Economic Development Department's new employee Mr. Leo Akujuobi, Manager of Workforce Development.
- Mr. Hugel reported on the impact that the latest federal employment directives are having on the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The Shipyard is determining how to handle vacancies caused by the federal government's deferred resignation offer and Department of Defense force reduction measures.
- Mr. Hugel reported that the Norfolk Naval Shipyard has formally executed a separation of the shipyard work from the management of the base itself, resulting in the addition of a commanding officer who will oversee the installation and facilities.

Closed Meeting

Action: At 9:39am Ms. McSwain, seconded by Mr. Barham, moved to go into a closed meeting: (A) pursuant to Virginia Code Subsection 2.2-3711 A.3 for the purpose of discussing the disposition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically regarding the disposition of 3920 and 3930 Burtons Point Road; and (B) pursuant to Virginia Code Subsection 2.2-3711 A.5 for the purpose of discussion concerning the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in expanding its facilities in the community.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - absent; Ms. Allen-absent; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 5-0 vote.

Open Meeting

Action: At 10:17 a.m. Ms. McSwain, seconded by Mr. Barham, 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. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - absent; Ms. Allen-absent; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 5-0 vote.

Items Submitted by Commissioners

- There were no items submitted by Commissioners.

Report Backs

- There were no report backs.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Ronald Peterman
Vice Chair