

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

May 27, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Angelia Allen – Chair
Ronald Peterman – Vice Chair
Arnette McSwain – Treasurer
Benjamin Foster – Commissioner
Keith Rice – Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney (9:06am)
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison
Steven Carter – City Manager
Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia

GUEST:

Steven Edwards – City Assessor
Dorothy Morgan – Deputy City Assessor
Jim Cullen – Portsmouth Mayor’s Military Affairs Committee
Rick Dwyer – Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
Todd Nichols – Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance

ABSENT:

Edward Barham, III – Commissioner
Peter Hansen – Commissioner
Kyera Pope – Finance
Dr. William Dodson – City Council Liaison

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Minutes

- The minutes from the April 22, 2025, Regular Minutes were presented and adopted.

Action: On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Foster, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the April 22, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented.

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

Financials

- **FY26 Operating Budget:** The Commissioners considered the PPIC FY26 Operating Budget. Chair Allen noted that an allocation to Starbase Victory had not been included. A previous \$50,000 grant was referenced for context. The Commissioners agreed to consider an allocation of funding at a later date and amend the budget as necessary.

Action: At 9:05am, on a motion by Mr. Rice and seconded by Ms. McSwain, the Commissioners moved to adopt the PPIC FY26 Operating Budget.

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

Presentation

- **Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA):** Rick Dwyer, Executive Director, and Todd Nichols, Deputy Director, of HRMFFA. provided an overview of the organization to include:
 - HRMFFA advocates for federal and military installations in Hampton Roads, supporting infrastructure and funding priorities.
 - Updates included federal defense spending increases, shipbuilding investment, and Coast Guard infrastructure expansion.
 - The Coast Guard base in Portsmouth is expected to benefit from infrastructure improvements and potentially host new cutters.
 - Fort Eustice updates and realignment plans were shared, noting that while some leadership will relocate, core functions are likely to remain.
 - Future risks of command consolidation and personnel reductions across all service branches were discussed.
 - Notable ongoing initiatives include supporting intergovernmental support agreements (IGSAs) for Coast Guard bases, and planning for community integration and infrastructure alignment.

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:** Chris Gullickson, of the Port of Virginia, provided updates to include:
 - A recap of the recent State of the Port event.
 - Ongoing activity at Portsmouth Marine Terminal includes receiving monopiles and tower sections for Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind development.

- The Port of Virginia remains resilient amid global disruptions. Approximately 19% of inbound cargo originates from China, mitigating some tariff impacts.
- **City Council/PPIC Joint Meeting – July 7, 2025:** Mr. Donahue provided a reminder of the Joint Meeting with the City Council scheduled for July 7, 2025. Commissioners are encouraged to submit topics and priorities for the Meeting Agenda.
- **CSX/Delong Rail Transloading Facility- 1 Harper Ave:** Mr. Donahue reminded the Commissioners of the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the CSX/Delong Rail Transloading Facility, scheduled for May 29, 2025, beginning at 10:00am.

New Business

- **Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee Update (PMMAC):** Jim Cullen, Chairman of PMMAC, provided an overview of the committee and their recent activities to include:
 - PMAC fosters direct communication between military leadership and city departments.
 - Recent initiatives included coordinating 6,500+ military volunteer hours for community events, sharing local support programs and enhancing childcare access near military installations.
 - Emphasis on cross-agency problem solving and collaborative events with Norfolk and Virginia Beach.
- **Waterfront Development Update:** Mr. Donahue provided an overview of the Crawford Bay Waterfront Development Project. Details of the project include:
 - The Crawford Bay site (Phase 1) has been proposed to accommodate a mixed-use development including 300+ residential units, 180-room hotel, retail, dining, entertainment establishments and new parking garage.
 - The preparation of a Request for Interest for developers is underway; with a marketing package expected to be released by the end of 2025.
 - Phase 2 of the Waterfront's development will include redevelopment of the Civic Center complex and City Hall properties.
 - Discussion included the importance of including maritime infrastructure (power, sewer, water) to support tall ships and cruise lines.

Closed Meeting:

- There was no need for a closed meeting.

Items Submitted by Commissioners

- There were no items submitted by Commissioners.

Report Backs

- There were no report backs.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10: 12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Angelia Allen
Chair