

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

May 28, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Angelia Allen – Chair
Ronald Peterman – Vice Chair
Arnette McSwain – Treasurer
Benjamin Foster – Commissioner
Edward Barham, III – Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison

GUEST: Steve Edwards – Interim City Assessor
Dorothy Morgan – Deputy City Assessor

ABSENT: Peter Hansen – Commissioner
Keith Rice – Commissioner
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Steven Carter – City Manager
De’Andre Barnes – City Council Liaison
Flora Berisha – Finance
Kyera Pope – Finance

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 April 23, 2024, Regular Minutes were approved as amended.

Action: On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Peterman, the Commissioners approved the minutes as amended from the April 23, 2024, Regular Meeting.

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

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:** Mr. Chris Gullickson of the Port of Virginia reported a 25% year-over-year volume increase following the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse. Operations at the Port of Baltimore have resumed, with vessel services being shared between Virginia and Baltimore. The Port of Virginia efficiently managed the additional workload while continuing to serve existing customers.

At the annual State of the Port event organized by the Hampton Roads Global Commerce Council in May, executive director Stephen Edwards highlighted the Port's role as a good neighbor to the Port of Baltimore and its transformation into "America's Modern Gateway." The Port of Virginia aims for sustainability operationally, financially and environmentally with a goal of carbon-free operations by 2040.

The Portsmouth Marine Terminal's improvement project in support of Dominion Energy Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) staging and marshalling facility is progressing, with successful outloads of the Orion installation vessel and ongoing transportation of monopiles for CVOW. Mr. Gullickson acknowledged Mayor Glover's emphasis on the "Blue Economy," highlighting the synergy between the PPIC, the Port of Virginia, Economic Development staff, and the City of Portsmouth's waterfront and industrial assets, supported by the local workforce and community.

- **3920-3930 Burtons Point Road:** Mr. Donahue shared progress on the sale of 3920-3930 Burton's Point Road, stating he has received the negotiated purchase agreement from Stonemont Financial Group. Currently, the agreement is undergoing review to ensure its finalization before presentation to the PPIC Board for execution.
- **Sixth Street:** Mr. Donahue provided an update on the Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority's (PRHA) properties at 0 Sixth St. and 1603 Seventh St. Following the Board's direction at the April meeting, staff is progressing with the completion of a minor subdivision plat to merge the two properties slated for transfer from the PRHA to the PPIC. Additionally, a Right-of-Way will be eliminated as part of the consolidation process to enhance marketability.

New Business

- **2024 VMA International Trade Symposium:** Mrs. Aimee Tracy presented the PPIC with the 2024 VMA International Trade Symposium sponsorship opportunities. Scheduled for October 8-10, 2024, the event focuses on shipping logistics and trade, drawing over 400 attendees globally for the symposium. The PPIC previously sponsored at a \$3,500 level as a banquet table sponsor. Mrs. Tracy presented a regional level sponsorship opportunity for \$11,000 to increase Portsmouth's profile. Mrs. Tracy proposed a 50/50 cost share of the sponsorship by the PPIC and the Economic Development Department. The PPIC requested that additional sponsorship options be provided along with information on the past impact.
- **Avangrid Kitty Hawk Wind Presentation** - Ashley McLeod of Avangrid Renewables provided an update on the Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind project, which is planned off the North Carolina coast.

Closed Meeting

- There was no Closed Meeting.

Items Submitted by Commissioners

- There was no Items Submitted by Commissioners.

Report Backs

- **Craney Island** - Mr. Donahue advised the PPIC that Michael Anderson, Chief Design Officer at the Army Corps of Engineers, is coordinating with his leadership to schedule a future meeting to discuss Craney Island's future plans. This meeting would also involve the Port of Virginia.
- **VML Local Elected Officials Conference** – Mrs. Karen Williams stated that training sessions on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) will be provided at the Virginia Municipal League’s conference on June 26, 202. These sessions are mandatory every two years for elected and appointed local government officials. Alternatively, the training can be accessed online.
- **Business Networking Event** – Mr. Donahue informed the Commissioners that the Portsmouth Economic Development Department in collaboration with the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, is hosting a Business Networking Event at Thyme on the River on May 30th from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Angelia Allen
Chair