

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

April 22, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Donahue – Secretary
Charles J. Bauman III – Assistant Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison
Kyera Pope – Finance

GUEST:

Steven Edwards – City Assessor
Dorothy Morgan – Deputy City Assessor
Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia
Earl Moore – Southern Material Handling
Jim Cullen – Portsmouth Mayor’s Military Affairs Committee

ABSENT:

Edward Barham, III – Commissioner
Dr. William Dodson – City Council Liaison
Steven Carter – City Manager

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Minutes

- The minutes from the March 25, 2025, Regular Minutes were presented and adopted.

Action: On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Rice, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - yes; Ms. Allen-yes; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - absent. Approved 6-0 vote.

Financials

- **Quarterly Financial Report:** Ms. Kyera Pope, Controller with the city of Portsmouth Finance Department, presented the PPIC's Quarterly Financial Report through March 2025.
- **FY26 PPIC Budget Presentation:** Ms. McSwain, Treasurer provided a detailed overview of the PPIC's proposed FY2026 Budget. Ms. McSwain noted that the PPIC is projected to be in a stronger financial position for FY26 compared to previous fiscal years, contingent on the successful sale of land at 3920-3930 Burtons Point Rd.

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:** Mr. Chris Gullickson, Port of Virginia Representative, reported:
 - March 2025 was the second-best March on record, surpassing 300,000 TEUs in volume.
 - New ship-to-shore cranes commissioned at Virginia International Gateway bring the total to 14.
 - Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project activity is ramping up at Portsmouth Marine Terminal.
 - The Oceanic International Partnering Forum offshore wind conference is coming up and the City of Portsmouth is expected to participate.
 - No immediate actions are being taken in regards to tariffs, however the Port of Virginia is monitoring market shifts.
- **PPIC Annual Retreat:** Ms. McSwain noted that no retreat will be held unless a subject matter arises which requires a meeting.
- **0 Sixth St., 1603 Seventh Street:** Mr. Donahue reported that the deed transferring the property at 0 Sixth St., 1603 Seventh Street to the PPIC has been recorded, business notifications are underway for adjacent property owners and the site is being prepared for marketing and has received early interest from developers.
- **City Council/PPIC Joint Meeting – July 7, 2025:** A Joint Meeting of the PPIC and City Council is scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 5:30pm during the Work Session. The goal is to engage in a two-way dialogue with City Council on PPIC projects, vision, and economic development efforts. The Chair and Vice Chair will coordinate with city staff to develop an agenda.

- **CSX/DeLong Rail Transloading Facility- 1 Harper Ave. Update:** Mr. Donahue reported that the Rail Transloading Facility planned by DeLong Company is moving forward. Phase 2 of the project includes the construction of grain and feed silos. The PPIC has supported a \$17 million federal grant application for Phase 2 and submission is pending a federal update to funding guidelines. A groundbreaking event for Phase 1 is scheduled for May 29, 2025.

New Business

- **Appointment of PPIC Assistant Secretary:** Mr. Charles J. Bauman, III was nominated and unanimously approved as the new PPIC Assistant Secretary.

Action: On a motion by Mr. Hanson and seconded by Ms. McSwain, the Commissioners approved Mr. Charles Bauman as the new PPIC Assistant Secretary.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - yes; Ms. Allen-yes; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - absent. Approved 6-0 vote.

- **Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee (PMMAC) Update:** Mr. Bauman provided an overview of the PMMAC including its purpose and accolades, and Councilman Hugel provided an overview of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA).
- **2025 Oceanic International Partnering Forum:** Mr. Bauman reported that the 2025 Oceanic International Partnering Forum will be held next week in Virginia Beach. It is a global event focused on offshore wind and alternative energy. Portsmouth will be attending the conference and will participate in port tours at Portsmouth Marine Terminal and Fairwinds Landing.
- **Coastal Seaplanes Project Meeting:** Mr. Chris Tillett, Manager of Business Development provided an overview of a planned commercial seaplane operation on the Elizabeth River in the City of Portsmouth. Docking will occur at Tidewater Yacht Marina and the plane will be hangered in Newport News. Zoning approval will allow for a maximum of five flights daily. Destinations include Annapolis, Outer Banks, and other Mid-Atlantic locations. Portsmouth will serve as the primary Mid-Atlantic hub for the operation.

Items Submitted by Commissioners

- There were no items submitted by Commissioners.

Report Backs

- There were no report backs.

Announcements:

- The Hampton Roads Chamber Portsmouth State of the City Event will be held at Rivers Casino Portsmouth on Friday, May 2, from 12:00 to 2:00pm. The PPIC will have a table for the event.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Ronald Peterman
Vice Chair