

**The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission**

**June 24, 2025**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**      Angelia Allen – Chair  
   Ronald Peterman – Vice Chair  
   Arnette McSwain – Treasurer  
   Edward Barham, III – Commissioner  
   Peter Hansen – Commissioner (9:13am)

**ALSO PRESENT:**                Brian Donahue – Secretary  
   Charles Bauman III – Assistant Secretary  
   Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney  
   Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison  
   Steven Carter – City Manager

**GUEST:**                            Steven Edwards – City Assessor  
   Dorothy Morgan – Deputy City Assessor  
   Thomas Cross – Port of Virginia  
   Jim Cullen – Mayor’s Military Affairs Committee

**ABSENT:**                          Benjamin Foster – Commissioner  
   Keith Rice – Commissioner  
   Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney  
   Kyera Pope – Finance  
   Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia  
   Dr. William Dodson – City Council Liaison

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**Welcome & Call to Order**

- Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Roll Call**

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

**Minutes**

- The minutes from the May 27th, 2025, Regular Minutes were presented and adopted.

**Action:** On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Peterman, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the January 28, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented.

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

### **Old Business**

- **Port of Virginia Update:** Mr. Thomas Cross, with the Port of Virginia provided an update which included:
  - Record cargo volumes: March was the second-best in Port history, with April being the third best.
  - There has been a surge in volume due to tariff-related front loading; a dip is expected in May–July.
  - The Port’s current trade diversification is: EU: 26%, China: 19%, India: 10%, and Vietnam: 8% demonstrating that the Port of Virginia is less reliant on China than other major U.S. ports.
  - Infrastructure: Widening of the shipping channel is complete; and the deepening will be at 55 ft by the end of 2025.
  - Construction at PMT has been completed; with NIT North Phase I optimization improvements due this fall, and Phase II by 2027.
  - Offshore wind: Monopile installation is past the halfway mark. Concerns about wind component size and site capacity were addressed.
- **City Council/PPIC Joint Meeting – July 7, 2025:** City Manager Steven Carter and City Council Liaison Councilman Hugel provided remarks on the upcoming City Council and PPIC Joint Meeting. The goal of the meeting is to create alignment between PPIC and City Council visions with an emphasis on open dialogue and goal-sharing. The Chair and Vice Chair presented preliminary agenda topics which included: Project Updates, Grant Program Overview, Development Site Briefing, American Cruise Line Expansion, Norfolk Naval Shipyard Southgate Annex Status, and engagement with the Virginia Port Authority.

### **New Business**

- **American Cruise Lines:** Charlie Bauman, Assistant Secretary, provided details regarding a visit from ACL executives to Portsmouth with the goal of exploring an expanded presence. Currently there are approximately 15 annual stops, with a potential to double the number of stops and add an additional vessel. Interests from ACL include a Docking Agreement and improved infrastructure to include water connection, refuse services and seawall modifications for boarding. There is a potential to make Portsmouth a future departure point for the cruise line.

The typical cruise includes a two-night stay, which results in direct tourism revenue. Passengers often explore Olde Towne and local attractions. There is a possibility of promotional inclusion in ACL materials and an opportunity to capture pre-cruise lodging and dining revenue.

- **Defense Industry Roundtable:** Mr. Bauman and Tanisha “Sunny” Golston, Business Development Specialist, are organizing segmented roundtables for business attraction and retention. The first session will focus on the Defense Industry and will take place on June 25, 2025. The event will include Portsmouth defense contractors, Hampton Roads Alliance, PMMAC, and the Hampton Roads Workforce Council. The purpose is to foster dialogue between city and local industry and identify supply chain and recruitment opportunities.

### **Closed Meeting**

**Action:** At 9:40am Mr. Peterman, seconded by Mr. Barham, moved to go into a closed meeting 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 3920 and 3930 Burtons Point Road, 0 Sixth Street, and 1603 Seventh Street.

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

### **Open Meeting**

**Action:** At 9:51 a.m. Mr. Peterman, seconded by Ms. McSwain, 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 - yes; Ms. Allen-yes; Mr. Foster – absent; Mr. Rice – absent; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 5-0 vote.

### **Items Submitted by Commissioners**

- Commissioners were reminded to submit agenda items for the upcoming City Council and PPIC Joint Meeting scheduled for July 7, 2025. Any items for inclusion should be submitted as soon as possible.
- A discussion was held regarding Commissioners' involvement as a PPIC liaison to the Virginia Port Authority. It was suggested that, before making an official designation, commissioners should have the opportunity to express interest in serving as liaison or alternate. A final decision will be made following Commissioner feedback.

### **Report Backs**

- There were no report backs.

### **Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue, Secretary

Angelia Allen, Chair