

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

April 28, 2026

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

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Donahue – Secretary
Charles J. Bauman, III – Assistant Secretary
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison
Dr. William Dodson – City Council Liaison
Katherine Bryant – City Council
Steven Carter – City Manager
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
Stephanie Council – Finance
LaKeitha Forest – Finance
Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia

GUESTS: Shayla Prince, Virginia Maritime Association
Dr. Nicole Devries, Portsmouth Public Schools
Steve Edwards, City Assessor

ABSENT: Peter Hansen – Commissioner
Derek Challenger – Interim City Attorney

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Minutes

- The minutes from the March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting were presented and adopted.

Action: On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Foster, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting as presented.

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

Financials

- Quarterly Financial Report – Ms. Stephanie Council, Interim Director of Finance, presented the PPIC's Quarterly Financial Report for March 2026. The report noted \$904,000 in cash and a net position of \$1.2 million, a slight increase from the previous year.
- FY27 Proposed Budget – Mrs. McSwain, Treasurer, presented the PPIC's proposed FY26 Operating Budget for the Commissioners consideration. The PPIC is scheduled to adopt a finalized budget at its May 26, 2026, meeting.

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:** Mr. Chris Gullickson of the Port of Virginia provided an update on recent activities including the Hampton Roads Global Commerce Council's 2026 State of the Port event, a two-day event that engaged local and national customers and agencies. Mr. Gullickson also highlighted the arrival of two new ship-to-shore cranes at Norfolk International Terminal, strong cargo volumes in March, and recently completed infrastructure projects. The Port has completed its harbor dredging project, creating a 55-foot-deep channel that allows fully loaded ultra-large container vessels to enter without tidal restrictions, providing increased speed and reliability for international shipping.
- **DeLong Agricultural Transloading Facility:** Mr. Bauman, Assistant Secretary, discussed DeLong's ongoing site development at 1 Harper Ave. Excavation work has begun and the contractor arrived on-site to begin staging equipment. The project is currently on schedule with construction progressing towards vertical development. Additionally, an announcement was made about the project being awarded \$16,399,364 in federal grant funding from the US DOT Port Infrastructure Development Program.
- **3920 -3930 Burtons Point Road:** Mr. Donahue advised the Commission that the site is under contract with Stonemont Financial Group for the construction of a 184,000-square-foot industrial warehouse. Stonemont has recently initiated its second and final option to extend the due diligence period, which is now set to run through June 16, 2026. During this period Stonemont is continuing to work through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Remediation Program for addressing environmental contaminants on the site and is also preparing engineering and site plans.
- **American Cruise Lines Tourism Collaboration:** Mr. Bauman discussed collaboration with American Cruise Lines to enhance tourism and landside visitor engagement in the City of Portsmouth. The city has submitted a grant request under the Virginia Port Authority's "Aid to Local Ports" program for seawall improvements. Staff announced that the project was awarded a \$200,000 grant and next steps were outlined. The city's Engineering Department is working to

finalize cost estimates and plans. Agreements between all parties will be necessary before commencing improvements.

- **HR Chamber State of the City Event:** Mr. Donahue advised the Commissioners that the Hampton Roads Chamber Portsmouth State of the City event will be held on May 8, 2026, from 12:00-2:00pm at River's Casino. A table has been procured for the PPIC.
- **PPIC/City Council Joint Meeting:** Mr. Donahue informed the PPIC of the planned City Council Joint Meeting on July 13, 2026, at 5:30pm. The Commissioners were asked to identify high-priority topics of discussion to present during this meeting.

New Business

- **VMA/PPS Employee Pipeline Discussion:** The Virginia Maritime Association (VMA) discussed the possibility of a new maritime supply chain workforce development pipeline. Councilman Hugel explained that he and Councilwoman Bryant met with VMA representative Shayla Prince, Workforce Development Director, to discuss collaborating with Portsmouth Public Schools and the city to expose students to maritime career opportunities. Ms. Prince stated that her role is tasked with working with local school divisions to increase awareness of maritime and supply chain careers. Leo Akujuobi, Manager of Workforce Development, advised that the Portsmouth@Work program will be tapping into the VMA's network to connect trained Portsmouth residents and students directly to employers within the maritime industry.
- **Announcements & Ribbon Cuttings**
Stylez & Kutz School of Barbering – April 29, 2026, 11:00am, 3328 Victory Blvd.
Radian Forge – April 30, 2026, 10:00am, 176 Wavy Street
Bains Pointe – May 5, 2026, 11:00am, 1100 High Street

Items Submitted by Commissioners

- None

Report Backs

- Brian Donahue reported that Dominion Power, in collaboration with the city's Engineering Department, completed upgrades to overhead street lighting along Burton's Point Road. The improved lighting is intended to better serve sailors who park near the Norfolk Naval Shipyard South Gate, facilitating safer movement between the shipyard and parking facilities. This update was provided as a follow-up to a previous meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue, Secretary

Angelia Allen, Chair