

PPIC Meeting
April 25, 2023

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission
April 25, 2023
9:00 AM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Arnette McSwain - Treasurer
Angelia Allen – Chairman
Ronald Peterman
Benjamin Foster

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison

GUEST:

Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia
Will Fediw – Virginia Maritime Association
Steve Edwards – Deputy City Assessor
Jocelyn Adumuah – Interim Director of Planning

ABSENT:

Sarah Rogers Garner – Vice Chairman
Flora Berisha – Finance
Kyera Pope – Finance
De’Andre Barnes – City Council Liaison
Mimi Terry – Interim City Manager
Roniqua Jackson – Commissioner

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chairman 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 February 28, 2023, Regular Minutes were presented for consideration.

Action: On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Peterman, the Commissioners moved to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2023, Regular Minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-absent; Ms. Allen-yes

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update**

Chris Gullickson of the Port of Virginia provided a brief update on port performance and advised that activity in the month of March 2023 had normalized and leveled out with approximately 40,000 TEUs in volume growth experienced over the same period in 2019. There has also been an uptick in export loads. The Port has maintained truck turn-times below industry average. For the month of March, the average turn-time was 35-minutes. Construction at Portsmouth Marine Terminal in support of offshore wind and the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project is proceeding and is approximately 30% complete. The improved terminal is expected to be fully complete by September 2023.

- **Burtons Point Rd. Update**

Mr. Donahue provided an update on the two PPIC Properties at 3920 and 3930 Burtons Point Rd. Mr. Donahue advised that there has been progress in obtaining a wetlands study and conceptual site layouts for the property. The Burtons Point Road roadway improvement project is moving to the construction phase. The project started on April 17th and will continue throughout the end of the year; with roadway installation and upgraded lighting. Updates will continue to be provided.

- **Port Host Community Grant Program**

Mr. Donahue informed the Commissioners of the recent Governor's announcement of the award of a \$415,000 grant under the Portsmouth Host Community Revitalization Grant program for the reconstruction of a waterfront bulkhead at 16 Harper Ave. in support of Crofton Industries.

New Business

- **Virginia Maritime Association**

Will Fediw of the Virginia Maritime Association (VMA) provided an overview of the VMA's mission, activities and membership. There are currently 28 Portsmouth based companies that are members of the VMA. Mr. Fediw advised that the maritime industry is statewide and includes the movement of cargo throughout the state. There are 55 marine terminals in the state of Virginia, 50 of which are privately owned and operated. Virginia averages 2,300 vessel calls per year. Mr. Fediw discussed waterfront assessment studies and ongoing dredging activities that are underway.

- **FY24 Budget:** The FY24 Budget proposal was presented to the PPIC for consideration. Ms. McSwain provided an overview of the budget proposal. Ms. McSwain noted recommendations for an increase in funding for Travel, from \$1,000 to \$2,000. It was also recommended that the budget line for Training be increased by \$1,000. Funding for the Burtons Point Road property are proposed to remain the same. The Business Development line has been increased to provide marketing campaigns and sponsorship opportunities. Starbase Victory funding is available while the program is on hold. The final FY24 Budget will be presented for adoption at the May 23, 2023 meeting.

- **NNSY South Gate Annex:** Mr. Donahue provided the PPIC with an update on the NNSY South Gate Annex conversation with the Navy to see if the property is surplus and available for adaptive reuse to accommodate industrial enterprises. A meeting with Economic Development Staff, PPIC Commissioner Peterman, the NNSY Planning Liaison, CAPT Dasher, and Councilman Hugel was held to discuss the Navy's use plan for the South Gate Annex and additional conversations will take place as a plan is put in place.

Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting

Open Meeting

Items Submitted by Commissioners

There were no Items Submitted by Commissioners

Report Backs

- Mr. Donahue provided the Board with the 2022 Portsmouth Economic Development Annual Report that was presented at the State of the City event and gave an update on the overall 2022 investments and 2023 goals.
- Mr. Donahue provided a follow-up to a request from the PPIC's February meeting regarding a tour of the Port of Virginia. Arrangements will be made and presented at the May 23, 2023 meeting.
- Mr. Donahue stated that a representative from Dominion Energy would like to attend the May 23, 2023 meeting to discuss the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project and how businesses can participate in the offshore wind supply chain and workforce.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Angelia Allen
Chair